Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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High court orders new trial for convicted murderer. PAGE 7

Lufthansa OKs consulting agreement with Air Saipan. PAGE 9

'Expensive CW visas meaningless to most alien workers'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The availability of expensive CNMI-only Transitional Worker Classification visas will be meaningless to most alien workers as they will not yet have either the status or the permit that are the prerequisites to obtaining a CW visa once abroad, according to the CNMI government.

Even if the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Interim

RELATED NEWS
DHS interim rule deficient for many reasons—Willens. PAGE 5

See VISAS on Page 4

Senate is now OGA-compliant

Sen. Henry H. San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian), right, other senators and legal counsels are seen through a gap on a desk in the chamber reserved for the media, during a session yesterday. Senators unanimously passed a resolution amending the Senate rules in order to comply with a recently ratified legislative initiative applying the Open Government Act to the Legislature.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senators unanimously adopted yesterday a resolution amending the Senate rules to comply with the recently ratified popular initiative applying the Open Government Act to the Legislature effective Dec. 7.

The House, which held a session on Monday, has yet to amend its own rules.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), who introduced Senate Resolution 16-47, said amending the Sen-

See SENATE on Page 4

Be counted in NMI's first runoff election

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Leaders are once again asking over 16,000 registered voters to be part of history by voting in the CNMI's first gubernatorial runoff election on Monday, making sure that the next governor and lieutenant governor are elected by a majority of the votes cast.

Monday, Nov. 23, has been declared a legal

See ELECTION on Page 4

Merrill Lynch contract with the Fund may be terminated

Trustees approve RFP for new investment consultant

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The existing contract of Merrill Lynch as investment consultant for the NMI Retirement Fund may be terminated as a result of some "fee restruc-

RELATED NEWS
Fund uncovers 'underpayments' by govt employees. PAGE 2

See MERRILL on Page 4

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8 DAYS before federalization

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you intend to vote in the Nov. 23 runoff election?

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of November 19, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

No Aid
More than 1 million people will run out of unemployment benefits in January unless Congress quickly extends federal emergency aid, a nonprofit group said.
NATION...Page 32

Sexiest Man
Get lost, Hugh Jackman. This year's "Sexiest Man Alive" is once again Johnny Depp.
LIFE & STYLE...Page 36

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Local

Fund uncovers 'underpayments' by govt employees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The internal auditor of the NMI Retirement Fund, Esther Ada, has uncovered a substantial amount of "underpayments" in the contributions of some government employees, totaling $172,000 to date.

During yesterday's board meeting, Ada disclosed that the amount was incurred by 22 active employees in government who, up to this time, are not making any move to settle with the Fund.

Ada reported that failure to collect the underpayment before the active member applies for service annuity creates a problem, both to the Fund and the member.

She explained that if the Fund allows the member to retire without collecting the underpayment or if the member is not able to pay in full by the time he or she retires, this will result in the member not being allowed to retire.

The best alternative, according to Ada, is to contact these members while they are still active employees to initiate payroll allotments.

However, Ada admitted that despite the notices sent out to these members, no one has come forward to settle with the Fund.

Board of trustees chair Sixto Igisomar expressed optimism that, with the installation of a new pension system, "minor anomalies" such as underpayments of members would be resolved.

The underpayments, he added, was discovered through the manual checking of Ada.

"We're hoping that this new software will do what we wanted to do…which is to catch such anomalies right away," Igisomar said.

Fund Administrator Mark Aguon described the new pension system as "user-friendly" and will only require passwords to get into the Fund's system.

He said the new Web-based system is expected to be online within the year.

Underpayment, he explained, is recorded when an employee transfers or is hired to a new position and changes category from Class 1 to Class 2.

Labor lists 359 ex-garment workers with pending cases in court

The Department of Labor has submitted to the Superior Court a list containing 359 names of former garment workers who have pending Labor cases in the Superior Court.

Assistant attorney general Eli D. Golob, counsel for Labor, said the 359 workers from two defunct garment factories have judicial review matters in court arising from Labor decisions. These workers are mostly Chinese and Filipinos.

Golob said he filed the list pursuant to the court's order dated Nov. 12, 2009, granting two-year transition conditional permits or "umbrella permits" to these workers.

In that order, Superior Court associate judge David A.Wiseman ruled that all alien workers who have pending labor cases in court are eligible for "umbrella permits."

Wiseman issued the ruling as a result of a consensus reached between Labor, the Labor Administrative Hearing Office, the Attorney General's Office, and counsel for alien workers who have pending cases in court.

Labor began distributing "umbrella permits" on Oct. 26. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Drunk man beats up wife

A man who came home drunk from a political gathering on Rota recently allegedly beat up his wife and threatened to kill her with a machete.

Andres Pingad Balisi, 30, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja imposed a $100 cash bail plus $4,500 unsecured bond for Balisi's temporary release.

A doctor at the Rota Health Center said the victim sustained a black eye, bruises on the shoulder, and laceration on the lip.

Sgt. Jonathan Garces stated in his report that Balisi had just arrived home from a political gathering in Sinapalo on Nov. 5 when he attacked his wife.

He allegedly repeatedly punched her on the thigh and eye, took a machete and threatened her with it, and broke her cell phone. Balisi also allegedly pulled the victim's hair.

Police arrested the defendant the following day. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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186 Head Start children receive H1N1 vaccines

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A total of 186 students in public schools have so far received the H1N1 vaccine, according to the Department of Public Health yesterday. These kids are all from the Public School System's Head Start program.

At the San Antonio Head Start Center, DPH vaccinated 21 children out of the 34 registered kids, while 83 received the vaccines at the William S. Reyes Head Start Center, which has 102 students.

DPH also provided the same vaccines to 30 students in Dandan Head Start out of the 33 in class while 52 kids availed of the vaccines at the Oleai center. Oleai has 66 kids enrolled with Head Start.

DPH said the 186 children who received the vaccines translate to 79 percent of the total population in four Head Start centers.

According to Roxanne Diaz, public health program analyst, some of the students were allergic to eggs and therefore could not get the vaccine.

She said individuals who are allergic to eggs and those who had previous adverse reactions to the seasonal flu vaccine are not recommended to get the H1N1 flu vaccine.

Other students, meantime, had no consent forms from their parents—a DPH requirement.

However, parents have the option to visit any health clinic in the CNMI to get their child vaccinated.

Next week, the H1N1 School Vaccination team will be at the Garapan, Tanapag, and Kagman Head Start schools and day care centers.

Rota Health Center personnel will be at the Rota Head Start on Nov. 24 and Tinian Health Center staff will be at the Tinian Head Start on Nov. 25.

At this time, Diaz said, DPH's target population for the H1N1 vaccines are pregnant women, school-aged children, infants and children 6 months old and older, individuals who live with or care for infants less than 6 months old, health care and emergency services workers, and individuals who have severe chronic disease or weakened immune system. This target group can visit any health clinic in the CNMI to get their H1N1 vaccine.

The CNMI has so far received a total of 6,700 H1N1 flu vaccines and is expected to get more in coming months, depending on the demand.

The CNMI, despite having confirmed cases of the virus, has yet to have an H1N1-related death.

CUC: Metering a way to hold down water rates

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

If all water consumers are billed based on their meters, there's a great possibility that rates on island would stabilize as desired, according to a ranking Commonwealth Utilities Corp. official.

Assistant executive director Abe Utu Malae said it is incumbent upon all customers to be metered because it is also a way for CUC to pressurize 100 percent of the lines.

Metering, Malae said, is a way to lower one's consumption of this precious resource.

It will also reduce the overall production from wells, thereby reducing the saltiness of the water, and improve pressure in the system.

This will also reduce energy costs through pumping and will "allow CUC to hold down the price of water," he said.

CUC records show that there are 10,000 water customers on island.

It has 212 miles of water mainlines that are 2 inches in diameter or larger and 196 miles of water pipes smaller than 2 inches. The agency also has 3,400 valves; 655 fire hydrants; 17 pressure reducing valves; and 16 storage tanks and reservoirs.

CUC is also responsible for monitoring 38 chlorination points; 146 water wells; and 18 booster stations.

Ten water wells are currently under repair.

At present, water supply is still being rationed in several areas on island due to the poor condition of both water and wastewater systems. These areas include Navy Hill, Agkag and Garapan.

CUC has identified only one solution to these concerns: to replace everything, especially the leaky pipes that have been in existence for at least 40 years, to ensure the smooth flow of water.

CUC's water revenue has been on deficit for many years, as a result of previous mismanagement and losses incurred from non-metered customers.

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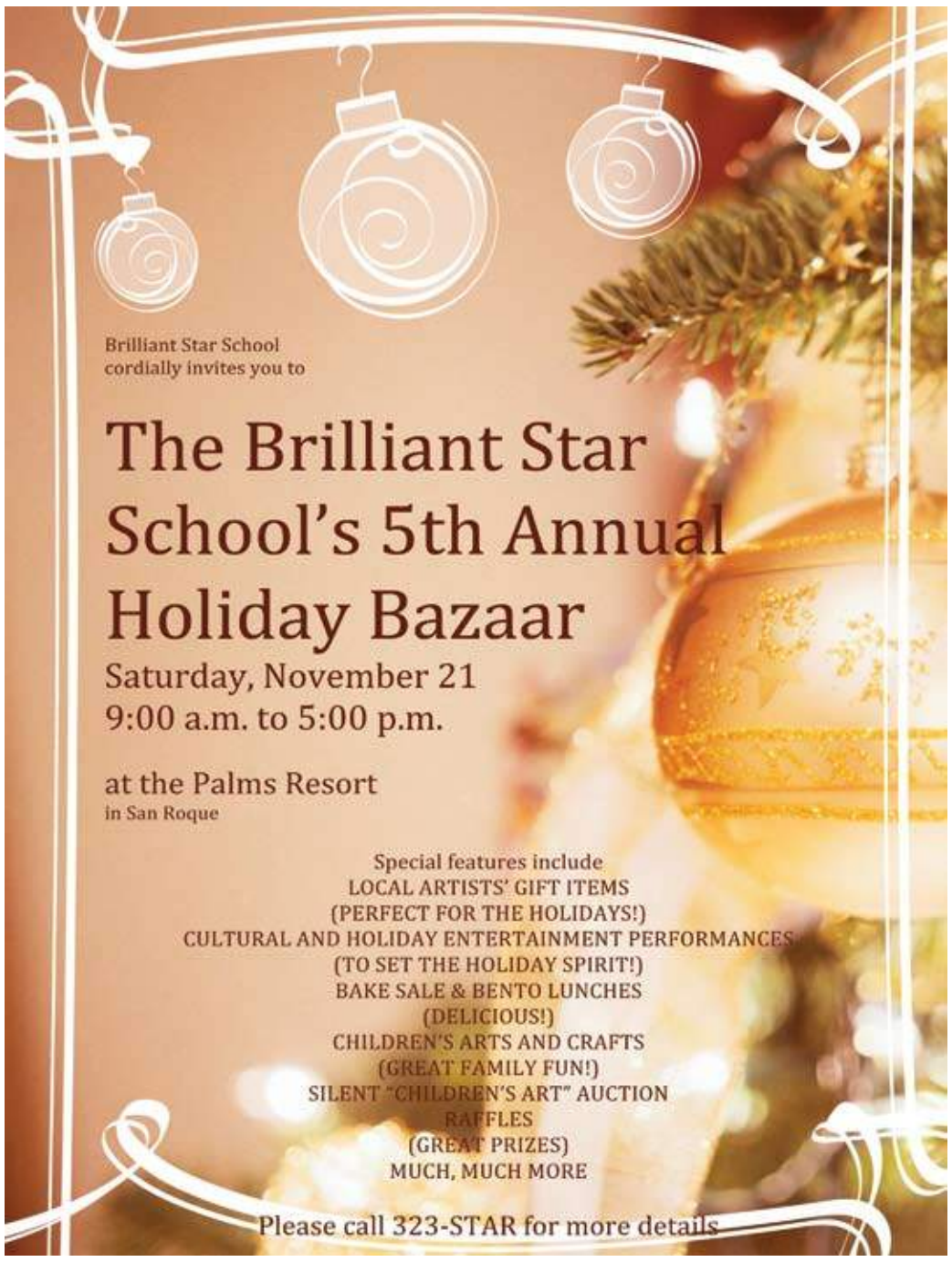

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MERRILL

From Page 1

turing" it implemented this year.

The Fund's board of trustees hinted this yesterday when they approved the issuance of a "request for proposal," inviting other entities to turn in proposals if they want to become the agency's investment consultant.

Board chair Sixto Igisomar admitted yesterday that some of the "fee restructuring" being imposed by Merrill Lynch is not favorable to the Fund.

The U.S. Department of Labor came out with new regulations early this year that no longer allows investment consultants to charge clients "soft dollar" for their services.

This means the Fund has to issue and directly a write check for Merrill Lynch to pay for its service. This form of payment is called the "hard dollar" instead of the previous practice of Merrill Lynch automatically getting a commission as its payment ("soft dollar").

"There are some fee structures that we are not very favorable to. Some other investment consultants actually have lower fees than what we have. So, based on our spreadsheet, we figure out that we will try to have those people come in and give us something we can work with," Igisomar told *Saipan Tribune*.

Impact

Although the Fund is satisfied with the performance of Merrill Lynch, Fund administrator Mark Aguon said the decision to put out an RFP for an investment consultant was based on the "impact" of the hard-dollar payment.

Besides the change in the form of payment, Aguon said, there is also "slight" increase in the charge, which is now at 5 basis points, or about 1 percent of the $300 million investment.

"Because of the new regulation, they are now charging us hard dollar, which means that we are paying them directly rather than by commission," Aguon said, adding that the way the committee and the board took action on the matter is not because of the "slight" increase.

"It is the fact that the terms of contract we have agreed upon in 2008 is now substantially different. We agreed on soft dollar; now we're paying on hard dollars," Aguon said.

He pointed out that Merrill Lynch can also submit a new proposal with new terms under the RFP.

"They can resubmit proposal with new terms…or have somebody else do it for them," he said, adding that it is only right for the Fund to review the contract anytime it wants to.

Merrill Lynch has been the agency's investment consultant since 1988. Its contract is subject for termination by either party.

Aguon said the normal review period would be five years to determine the quality of service and performance of the consultant and if the agency sees an "emergency."

Asked if there's an "emergency" to consider at this time, Aguon said: "Yes, because there's substantial change in the contract in the terms of services and this is not due to Merrill Lynch but the federal government, which requires hard dollar payment."

No pressure

Merrill Lynch was the recent subject of criticisms by some politicians who blame the consultant for the collapse of the Retirement Fund.

A group of retirees also filed a lawsuit against Merrill Lynch and the Fund board of trustees for the "bad" advice it provided the agency, resulting in over $150 million losses in the Fund's overseas investments.

In their complaint, the retirees alleged that the board continued its unquestioning reliance on Merrill Lynch despite the losses.

Aguon said that yesterday's decision to issue an RFP has nothing to do with these cases.

"This issue has been on the table since March when the issue of hard dollar came out. It's just an unhappy coincidence that it looks like we're reacting to these pressures," Aguon said, adding that finalizing an RFP for an investment consultant will take a little while.

ELECTION

From Page 1

holiday.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial of the Covenant Party will be facing off with Republican Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider.

Fitial banks on "proven leadership and proven experience," while Hofschneider advocates "change in leadership."

A runoff election will be held, not because of Hofschneider's eight-vote lead over Fitial, but because no candidate received at least 50 percent plus one of the votes cast in the four-way gubernatorial race on Nov. 7.

Hofschneider and his running mate, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, beat Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos by eight votes, 4,900 to 4,892, the closest gubernatorial race in CNMI history.

"Go out and exercise your right to vote. That's how democracy works. After the runoff, we will have a governor voted by a simple majority," said House Vice Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero, author of the bill that became the runoff election law, Public Law 16-43, signed by Fitial in July.

Palacios, however, was the author of the original proposed constitutional amendment to ensure that the governor and lieutenant governor are elected by a majority of the votes cast.

Both the current administration and its predecessor were elected without a majority vote.

In the November 2005 election, Fitial received 28.07 percent of the total votes cast for governor. He won by 99 votes against his closest opponent, Hofschneider, who got 27.34 percent.

In the November 2001 polls, former Gov. Juan N. Babauta was declared winner despite receiving less than half of the votes. He got 42.8 percent of the total votes cast. His closest rival, Fitial, got 24.4 percent.

Candidates speak

Inos, in an interview yesterday, called on voters to once again come out and participate in the first gubernatorial runoff election.

"Please come out and exercise your right to vote. And while you're in the process of exercising your right to vote, make the right choice by voting for Ben and Eloy because we believe that we have the experience and the ability to lead the Commonwealth in these trying times. We have identified the issues and have solid plans to bring us out of this situation for the betterment of the Commonwealth," he said.

The Covenant Party said the CNMI cannot afford to choose the "alternative."

Hofschneider, in a phone interview yesterday, called on voters "to take the time and vote."

"I encourage voters to stand up and be counted, to make a difference not only in their own lives but also in the lives of others who may have been forgotten or have suffered silently in the last four years. We cannot afford to have the same system of running things in the next four or five years," he said.

Hofschneider, a former speaker like Fitial, urged the 13,000 voters "who wanted change" to "come out again and really open their minds and hearts."

"I speak for change," he said. "This is not about political parties anymore, but about people."

Fitial, in a Nov. 17 memorandum, declared Nov. 23 a legal holiday.

"In observance of such a holiday, I remind each and every one of you to go out and exercise your right to vote," Fitial said in the one-page memorandum.

Whoever wins in the runoff election will serve for five years instead of four, because of the recently passed and ratified Senate Legislative Initiative 16-11 requiring the holding of regular general elections only in even-numbered years.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) said every registered voter should take part in the historic runoff election.

"Election is not over yet, and we are hoping for a higher turnout. Please make sure to make the right and wise choice," he said.

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) urged all citizens to go to the polls and "vote [with] their consciences on Nov. 23."

"Let no one be ruled by fear before, during, or after the runoff—regardless of the election results. And may we exercise our right to vote fully informed about both the candidates, with our eyes wide open, and our hearts in the right place," she said.

With Monday a holiday, government offices will be open only for three days next week: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Thursday is the Thanksgiving holiday.

In the Nov. 7 general elections, only 13,784 cast their votes including absentee votes, out of the 16,108 voters who registered. The voter turnout of 86 percent was much lower than the 93 percent recorded in the 2005 gubernatorial elections.

While runoff elections in other states usually get fewer votes than in normal elections, deputy special assistant for administration Joseph C. Villagomez believes "there will be more voters on Monday because this is historic for the CNMI."

SENATE

From Page 1

ate rules respects the will of voters and complies with the provisions of the Open Government Act of 2007.

During the session, Senate legal counsel Ian Catlett briefed seven of nine senators present about the three major changes to the Senate rules, including those that deal with public notice requirements for official meetings, public comments, and record keeping.

An official meeting is one conducted by a quorum of senators present for a Senate session or a Senate committee meeting during which official action may be taken.

Informal conversations among lawmakers or between lawmakers and constituents are not considered official meetings subject to the Open Government Act.

The resolution's seven-page attachment explains in detail the changes made to the Senate rules.

Reyes instructed Catlett to conduct a workshop for the Legislative Bureau staff and other employees to ensure compliance with the law.

Praise

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), who led the Open Government Act popular initiative that made it to the Nov. 7 ballot and secured the required two-thirds majority of the votes cast, said the Senate deserves much praise for adopting new rules and procedures to ensure compliance with the Open Government Act and the will of the people.

"It is now up to the House to follow the Senate's example, and adopt new rules as well to ensure compliance with the new law by Dec. 7," Sablan said in a statement.

New rules

Under the amended Senate rules, the president or the presiding officer is required to give at least 72 hours public notice, with agendas, for official sessions and meetings.

A bill prefiled with the clerk is now required to appear on the agenda for the next session provided that it is prefiled not less than 72 hours before that session, and appears on the session agenda.

Prior to enacting a bill or resolution introduced in the Senate, the Senate or a committee should afford interested persons the opportunity to submit views or comments in writing.

The Senate or a committee should also afford interested persons an opportunity to present oral testimony on any bill or resolution for bills and resolutions introduced in the Senate.

Final action on a measure should also be at a meeting open to the public for which notice has been given.

Also, prior to a vote on final passage, the president and clerk should confirm that a bill or resolution has been offered for public comment in conformity with the rules.

Except for commemorative resolutions, no bill or resolution that has not been offered for public comment shall be finally passed, the amended Senate rules state.

Each senator and the clerk of the Senate is also responsible for preserving all public records that will come in their possession and control.

The Senate clerk is also now required to transmit a copy of each journal adopted by the Senate to the archives of the Northern Marianas College within 30 days of adoption.

As a result of the Open Government Act of 2007, the Legislature now also has to respond to citizen requests for public records within 10 days. Failure to grant those requests subjects them to penalties.

VISAS

From Page 1

Permit Rule is temporarily stopped, if these workers leave the CNMI after Nov. 28, 2009, they will be unable to obtain a CW visa, said attorney David W. DeBruin of the Jenner & Block LLP law firm, counsel for the CNMI.

DeBruin's arguments were contained in the CNMI's reply brief supporting the Commonwealth's motion for a preliminary injunction to prevent DHS from issuing the Interim Permit Rule in final form until it has complied with the requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act.

DeBruin pointed out that the CNMI recently issued "umbrella permits" to virtually all foreign workers and other aliens before the effective date of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act (federalization law) on Nov. 28. 2009. He said recipients of these permits are entitled to live and work in the CNMI for up to the two-year maximum period allowed by the CNRA, as long as they continue to comply with CNMI laws.

"All but a handful of workers and employers thus have no pressing need to apply for expensive CW permits and concomitant CW status, and likely will choose not to apply until necessary in light of the onerous fees and eligibility requirements," the lawyer said.

DeBruin said it is in fact ironic that the federal agencies named in the lawsuit point to the Interim Permit Rule's creation of CW visas as an argument in favor of permitting the rule to go into effect when, on the whole, the CNMI's guest workers will be far likelier to benefit if the CW visa system—as it is currently formulated—is stopped.

He said the rule's announcement that existing, lawful foreign workers shall be required to obtain visas from foreign consulates before re-entering the CNMI "is generally regarded in the CNMI as a serious misstep, and has engendered consternation and protest in both Saipan and in Washington, D.C."

DeBruin said obtaining a visa from a foreign consulate costs hundreds of dollars, necessitates a significant devotion of time and energy by the applicant, and can entail weeks of wait time—burdens that are unjust to impose on workers who are already indisputably entitled to live, and remain, in the CNMI under federal law.

"CNMI guest workers are rightfully flabbergasted that they can only apply for such visas once abroad and that they have no guarantee of obtaining them," he said.

The CNMI counsel suggested that, instead of setting up this costly and cumbersome system, DHS might have instead chosen to issue automatic re-entry visas (into the CNMI) to all legal aliens in the CNMI, or else to issue such visas at least to those workers who are issued CW permits.

DeBruin cited the many comments on the Interim Permit Rule that, according to him "have eloquently made exactly these points."

Indeed, he said, DHS' decision to require workers to obtain CW visas abroad is a prime example of the sort of administrative decision that might have been made quite differently had the rule been written in the spotlight of public notice and comment.

"As a result, an injunction against the Interim Permit Rule pending proper notice and comment rulemaking will likely benefit CNMI guest workers in aggregate more than harm them by permitting defendants to reconsider and remedy this serious shortcoming in the rule," the counsel said.

DeBruin said many local employers and guest workers are opposed to the hiring of new nonresident workers even when existing guest workers are unemployed.

DeBruin said that, even though DHS did not publish the rule until the eve of the statutory deadline, there are several indications within the rule itself that these regulations were written many months ago.

Had DHS issued its regulations as a proposed rule even a month or two earlier, it could have left ample time for notice and comment and given the people of the CNMI a voice in their own future, he said.

"Instead, DHS waited up to the last possible moment, in blatant disregard of both the spirit and the letter of the APA," he added.

"Federal officials apparently will announce ill-considered fiats at the eleventh hour, hiding behind a flimsy tissue of fake harms and the pretence of 'good cause,' and leave the CNMI's residents to suffer the consequences," DeBruin said.

The case is in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

DHS interim rule deficient for many reasons—Willens

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security should not implement the interim rule on the CNMI-Transitional Worker Classification on Nov. 28, 2009, as it is deficient for many reasons, according to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's special legal counsel, Howard P. Willens.

In the CNMI's comments on the interim rule, Willens said the rule fails to implement the statutory requirement that the DHS Secretary establish and enforce a transitional work permit system in the CNMI that provides for allocation and a reduction in the number of foreign workers to zero by Dec. 31, 2014.

Willens said DHS failed to conduct an economic impact analysis of the proposed regulations, as required by Executive Order 12866 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980.

He added that the rule fails to implement the statutory goals of minimizing harm to the CNMI, protecting and increasing job opportunities for U.S. citizens; and fostering the expansion of tourism and economic development.

"We believe that DHS has an obligation under the Administrative Procedure Act to review all the comments submitted in this rule-making proceeding and amend its proposed regulations so that they comply with the requirements of Public Law 110-229 (federalization law) and will not cause the serious injury to the Commonwealth people and economy that will otherwise result," he said.

Willens said the rule describes no system for how the permits are to be divided among employers.

"In view of the law's mandated reduction in the number of permits to zero within five years, there can be no question but that DHS will be required to confront the need to allocate permits among CNMI employers whose collective demand for foreign workers is greater than the available number of permits during the next year," he said.

The proposed regulations, he noted, do not even identify the criteria that might be used in making critical distinctions among employers competing for foreign workers.

Second, Willens said, the proposed rules do not identify any procedure for reducing the number of the permits to zero by the end of the transition period.

Based on data supplied by the Commonwealth in August 2008, Willens said, the rule indicates that 19,083 foreign workers are in the CNMI and concludes that about 14,543 of these workers (13,543 in-status and 1,000 out-of-status) "will be granted CW status in 2009."

"With these figures at hand, DHS certainly had sufficient data to consider the alternative means of reducing the number of foreign workers during the transition period as required by the law," he said.

The counsel said DHS' failure to comply with the law imposes additional burdens and uncertainty on CNMI citizens.

He said the CNMI economy is composed almost entirely of small businesses, many with less than five employees and only a handful with more than 50 employees.

"Without some clear indication of DHS' intentions with respect to the allocation and reduction of the available permits for foreign workers, all participants in the economy suffer," Willens said.

He said the proposed rule will also hurt the Commonwealth's "very successful efforts" to stop human trafficking under its 2007 labor reform law.

"The federal rule lacks safeguards to ensure that women coming to the Commonwealth possess the necessary skills in their intended occupation; it has no procedures for checking credentials or an orientation at the airport before entry; and provides no available employment history records that could flag likely abuses and previous infractions by employers before a permit is granted," he said.

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NMC shares accreditation experience with Pacific

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, along with her staff, faculty and students, shared with neighboring islands the college's challenges and success in its accreditation efforts during a two-day workshop in Guam.

A total of 20 NMC delegates joined representatives from the University of Guam, the College of Micronesia, the Palau Community College, the College of the Marshall Islands and Guam Community College for the training held on Nov. 12 and 13.

The training was organized by the Pacific Post Secondary Education Council and the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

The delegates' participation in the event was funded through a grant by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

Fernandez led a presentation on NMC's program review experience and discussed the college's efforts to meet accreditation standards in the past two years. She also talked about the accomplishments that NMC had achieved as a result of having to undergo rigorous and intense cycles of program review.

NMC was placed on show-cause status by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges in 2008 after failing to address WASC recommendations in previous years. NMC reaffirmed its accreditation only in June this year.

"One of the key benefits of the program review process was that dialogue and communication across the campus community was raised to a new level," said Fernandez, adding that the workshop provided the college insight and advice on how to further improve and implement the program review process it already has in place.

Fernandez said they were also able to network with other college representatives and learn from their experiences.

Besides presentations from participating colleges, ACCJC president Dr. Barbara Beno and vice president Jack Pond provided delegates pointers about the accreditation process and assessment.

Other speakers included Guam Community College Dr. Mary Okada; Dr. Ray Somera, GCC academic vice president; and Dr. Wilson Hess, president of College of the Marshall Islands.

Other discussions focused on participating institutions' progress in their institutional fact books, lessons and insights from past accreditation visits, and experiences in linking program assessment to planning and budgeting.

According to Fernandez, NMC participants will be meeting with the rest of the campus community in coming weeks to discuss their findings at the workshop as NMC enters its third cycle of program review. The PPEC, chaired by Fernandez, is composed of chief executive officers and presidents of the region's colleges and universities: American Samoa Community College, the College of Micronesia-FSM, the College of the Marshall Islands, Guam Community College, Palau Community College, the University of Guam, the University of Hawaii Community College System office, the University of Hawaii at Hilo, Hawaii Community College, Honolulu Community College, and Kapiolani Community College.

Fernandez said the purpose of the council is to encourage and develop regional planning of postsecondary education throughout the Pacific.

Brilliant Star to host annual 'Holiday Bazaar' tomorrow

The annual Holiday Bazaar, organized by Brilliant Star School, will once again open the holiday season this year.

This fifth annual event will be held tomorrow, Nov. 21, from 9am to 5pm, at the Palms Resort's San Souci Hall. The event is an opportunity for artists and other vendors to showcase their arts, and for island residents and visitors to get an early start on buying unique and beautiful gifts for the holidays.

The daylong event is also graced by performances throughout the day by various community cultural and arts groups, as well as raffles with prizes generously donated by community businesses.

"We're looking forward to another year of showcasing our island's arts, crafts and gifts. We still have a few tables available for any interested artists or vendors," said Heather Kennedy, one of the event organizers. Interested vendors may contact the school at 323-STAR (323-7827)

Some of the arts shoppers can expect to find this year include the ceramics of Nancy Provido, the paintings of Greg Elliott, the handmade jewelry of artists Kathryn Fuller, Nava Khorram and Leila Staffler, the island jams of Deece Revilla, and the crafts, carvings and paintings of some of the island's best known artists.

The highlights of the day are the performances that take place throughout the event. This year, performers will include Doremi School of Music, Saipan Community School Ukelele Band, Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts, Keynotes School of Music, Angel's International School of Dance, and the Saipan Grand Hotel Singing Superstars Champion.

Raffle prizes have been donated, and this year the lucky winners can expect to take home PIC waterpark passes, a Motorola w377 GSM camera phone donated by Docomo, and gift certificates from Aqua Resort Club, Saipan Grand Hotel and expressions, to name a few. Drawings will be held hourly.

Bento box lunches will be available and a special arts and crafts area will be set up so that children can remain occupied during the day. "We look forward to welcoming the community, once again, to this wonderful event which opens the holiday season," said Kennedy. ***(PR)***

High court orders new trial for convicted murderer

The Supreme Court has ordered a new trial for convicted murderer Franklin Cabrera Cepeda Jr., saying he was denied his right to a fair trial.

Cepeda had been convicted of robbery, first-degree murder, and other charges.

In a decision issued yesterday in *Commonwealth v. Cepeda*, the high court vacated the convictions because it said the trial court did not instruct the jury on all of the essential elements necessary to secure a robbery conviction, and because the trial court improperly admitted witness testimony that was so prejudicial to the defendant that he was denied his right to a fair trial.

This case arose from the death of Rong Matthew Zhou on March 1, 2000.

On July 21, 2003, the Commonwealth charged Cepeda in connection with Zhou's death. Cepeda pleaded not guilty to all charges and had a jury trial. On Jan. 31, 2005, the jury returned a verdict finding Cepeda guilty of first-degree murder, robbery, aggravated assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and conspiracy.

He was sentenced to serve 66 years in jail.

On appeal to the Supreme Court, Cepeda challenged his robbery and first degree murder convictions on the ground that the jury was not properly instructed on the essential elements of robbery. Under a Commonwealth law known as the "felony murder rule," a defendant can be convicted of first degree murder if a victim is killed during the commission or attempted commission of a felony, such as robbery. To convict a defendant of a crime generally requires proving beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant committed an unlawful act and that the defendant possessed a guilty mental state. The Commonwealth robbery statute is silent regarding what mental state is required to commit robbery.

The Supreme Court held that in order to convict Cepeda of robbery, the Commonwealth must prove beyond a reasonable doubt what is known as "specific intent"—that the defendant acted with intent to permanently deprive a person of his or her property. Because the trial court did not instruct the jury on this element, the robbery conviction and the first-degree murder conviction predicated on that conviction were vacated. ***(PR)***

2010 Census operations in the CNMI begin

The recent opening of the Local Census Office on Saipan marks the beginning of the recruiting effort to hire over 350 full-time and part-time workers that will be needed for the 2010 CNMI Census. Census activities will officially begin on April 1, 2010.

"We are looking forward to having all equipment and materials in place very soon," said Juan Borja, Local Office Manager for the 2010 CNMI Census. "All staff members are currently being trained and are making preparations for the Census in April. We will have an official opening once the last items arrive from Washington, D.C."

With the management and administrative staff in place, the first round of hiring is now complete. All applicants who were not hired will be automatically placed in the pool for future hiring and will not need to re-apply.

"With over 400 applicants, we were very pleased with the initial response we had for the 2010 Census and so we have created a special testing day for all who applied for positions in September. Each applicant will receive a letter with the testing date, time and place within the next week," Borja said.

In early December, a 2010 CNMI Census Job Fair will take place on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota as the Local Census Office searches for the over 350 employees that will be needed. Employment duration varies from several weeks to several months beginning in early January. All information will be available next week on *2010 CNMI Census* tab on the CNMI Department of Commerce website at http://www.commerce.gov.mp or by calling the Local Census Office at 288-3027/23.

Office hours are Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm and the office is located on International Terminal Loop next to the Saipan International Airport. For more information, call the Local Census Office at 288-3027/23. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293
Saipan, MP 96950

NOTICE OF MODIFICATION
OF A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

CNMI Governor Benigno R. Fitial, on *November 11, 2009*, approved of the Commonwealth Development Authority's (CDA's) recommendation to modify *Qualifying Certificate No. QC 2009-01* for *PTI Services, Inc.* ("the Beneficiary").

Address. The address of the Beneficiary is *Susupe*, municipality of *Saipan*, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

Investment. The Beneficiary will invest approximately $*3.2 million* to *expand and operate its call center* located at *Susupe,* municipality of *Saipan*, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

For more detailed information, please contact CDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its offices in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

Pursuant to Qualifying Certificate Rules and Regulations, this advertisement is paid for by the Beneficiary

CUC schedules power outage in Dandan

There will be a power outage in the Dandan Homestead area (Kiya 1) on Nov. 28, 2009, from 7:30am to 4:30pm. Commonwealth Utilities Corp. crew will perform systems maintenance on laterals in the area.

The power interruptions will be required for the safety of the linemen as they perform their work and will be isolated to laterals only.

CUC crewmen will replace approximately 75 deteriorated pole top pins (pole hardware). The deteriorated pins are of steel composite and were installed nine years ago and have now exceeded their life span.

"Because of their age and extensive exposure to the elements they require replacement to reinforce the circuit," said CUC. "Furthermore, due to the consistent ocean salt spray in that area, the new replacement pins have fiberglass shafts and are expected to be more dependable under the conditions."

The line crew will be working in many areas throughout the day and will only interrupt power to a certain lateral to perform the necessary repairs and re-energize the lateral when the repairs are complete. ***(CUC)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Youth Congress inauguration set

The Office of the CNMI Youth Congress cordially invites members of the public to attend the inaugural activities of the 12TH CNMI Youth Congress. Inaugural mass will be held on Friday, Nov. 20, 2009, at 5pm at the Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa. The Inaugural Ceremony will be on Saturday, Nov. 21, 2009, at 10am in the chamber of the House of Representatives at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capital Hill, Saipan. ***(PR)***

Election Commission open this weekend

The Commonwealth Election Commission says it will be open on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 21-22, 2009, for Emergency Absentee applicants. Hours of operation are from 7:30am to 4:30pm. Emergency applicants on Tinian should contact Donald M. Hofschneider and applicants on Rota should contact Lelanie I. Manglona. Anyone requiring other information may call the Commission's office at 664-VOTE (8683) or by sending electronic mail to info@votecnmi.gov.mp or executivedirector@votecnmi.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

MCS Theatre Club presents musical

Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club presents a musical adaptation of William Shakespeare's *Winter's Tale,* featuring musical performances from the award-winning Saipan Southern High School Manta Band and The Wise Men.

Performances will be held at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa and will start with a dinner show on Friday, Dec. 4, with dinner at 6pm and the performance at 7pm. Cost is $35. Regular show is on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 7pm. Cost is just $5.

Due to limited seating, advance purchase of tickets is strongly recommended. Tickets are available from cast and crew members or at the Mount Carmel School Business Office. For more information, call 234-6184 or visit http://mcstheatreclub.blogspot.com. This show is made possible, in part, with support from IT&E. ***(PR)***

Attention: All active duty service member families

This holiday season we would like to remember all our service members who put their lives on the line. If you have a family member from the CNMI serving on active duty status with any branch of the U.S. military, provide us with their address so we can get your service member a Holiday Care Package. You can call the American Red Cross - NMI Chapter at 234-3459 or e-mail to homefrontsupport@nmi.redcross.org and provide their full name, rank, unit address, city, state and zip code. ***(PR)***

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LG vx8100 $69 CDMA
LG vx5300 $59 CDMA

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 30, 1998

Power rates 'too high'

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday urged the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to examine closely its operation so that it can reduce the rate of electricity for the whole community. According to Joe Ayuyu, president of the Chamber, members of the business community believe that they are paying too much for their electricity rate in the Northern Marianas, far higher than neighboring Guam. "The cost of fuel has gone down several times in the world market but it is still very high here. We, in the business community have always believed that 16 cents per kilowatt hour is extremely expensive. I believe that businesses should only pay $12 to $13 cents per kilowatt hour, " said Ayuyu. The utilities firm charges 16 cents per kilowatt hour to commercial users.

Businessman in string of labor charges turns himself in

A local businessman who is facing 162 counts of criminal charges for allegedly abusing contract workers turned himself in to authorities last Friday and was given a reduced bail of $100,000. Antonio Aldan Benavente, 43, flew in from Utah and gave himself up to the Department of Public Safety, according to Assistant Attorney General Aaron Williams. Williams filed a 162-count information against Benavente on Nov. 12 and sought a $3 million bail. A bail hearing was held Friday in which Superior Court Judge Juan T. Lizama ordered a $100,000 bond for his temporary release. Benavente—owner of Benavente Security Agency, Island Protection Service and PAC Asia Enterprises—was charged with 89 counts of failure to pay wages, 29 counts of failure to pay minimum wages, and 15 counts of illegal charging of fees for application and renewal.

Nov. 30, 1999

Ex-Tinian mayor, 3 others indicted

Former Tinian Mayor James Masga Mendiola and three others have been indicted by a grand jury for four counts of federal criminal violations in connection with cattle rustling on Tinian. Mr. Mendiola, 50, surrendered to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Nov. 19, 1999 and was arraigned in the U.S. District Court. He pled not guilty to charges of conspiracy to conceal and dispose stolen property. The former mayor and congressman of the island municipality, who is eyeing a political comeback in the Tinian special elections to be held next year following the resignation of Sen. Herman Manglona, was released on bail. Mr. Manglona, also a former mayor, quit the Senate post after pleading guilty to charges of bribe-taking, mail fraud and jury tampering.

Teno leads delegation to Japan tourism fair

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said yesterday he hopes to meet with various airline officials during his trip to Japan this week as part of the CNMI delegation to the country's biggest tourism and travel fair. His main mission, however, is to talk with travel agents in Tokyo to encourage Japanese tourists to visit the Northern Marianas. The market is the largest source of visitors to the island, making up about 80 percent of total arrivals last year. Dozens of high-ranking local officials and representatives of the tourism industry are attending this week's event organized by the Japan Association of Travel Agents or JATA.

Nov. 30, 2000

Feds OK home loan for Saipan

The United States government is extending the implementation of another public housing program in the Northern Marianas to increase home ownership among moderate-income families on the island. The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation said making the Guaranteed Rural Housing Loan Program available to CNMI residents would facilitate the growth of home owners in the Commonwealth. The program will be implemented here through the Rural Development of the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act, which was enacted on Nov. 29, 1990.

NMI sees entry of another remittance firm

While the prevailing economic slowdown persistently makes almost all business sectors in the Northern Marianas frown, the money-transfer industry continues to indicate growth as manifested by the entry of yet another remittance company on Saipan. Winfield Corporation began accepting remittance transactions from a good slice of the Filipino community on Saipan in the third quarter of the year, sending close to $350,000 in total greenback to the Philippines in its first three months of operation.

Lufthansa OKs consulting agreement with Air Saipan

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Air Saipan and LH Consulting have signed a memorandum of agreement, cementing their commitment to launch a new airline in the Commonwealth.

Thilo Schmid, executive vice president and partner of Lufthansa Consulting, said in a statement his company was approached to help launch Air Saipan next month.

The German-based airline consulting company will assist Air Saipan in the ramp-up phase with different services, including general business planning, commercial setup support, and organizational development.

ON THE NET
Lufthansa Consulting:
www.lhconsulting.com

"It's a challenging project and we believe that this will be a great success in time. The business plan of Air Saipan is unique and challenging and Lufthansa Consulting is excited about working with Mr. Mills and his team to get Air Saipan airborne on time and on budget," said Schmid.

Dean A. Mills, president and founder of New Era Group Asia LLC, said that working with LH consultancy "is extremely important for us as a new airline."

"The first time Air Saipan tried to launch in 2006 there was a big timing problem with fuel prices and other areas. We were also undercapitalized. By appointing LH consulting, we are extremely confident that we will become the nation's flag carrier," Mills said.

The team is currently in talks with banks on island and the tourism board for the new airline.

Mills disclosed last week that they plan to employ about 60 personnel from the island, who will start training in January.

It is their plan to commence operation in 2010.

Air Saipan first tried to set up and operate an airline based out of Saipan in 2006. Plans were pushed back, however, due to increasing fuel prices, difficulties with aircraft maintenance problems, and undercapitalization.

Mills said they now have substantial capital—$10 million so far that will increase to $20 million prior to launch—and substantial backers, especially in the Chinese outbound market.

Initially, Air Saipan flights would be chartered and fly to Guangzhou, Shanghai, and possibly Cairns in 2011.

The CNMI has only two signatory airlines right now: Asiana and Northwest Airlines, both catering to Japanese, Chinese, and Korean markets.

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Advice and dissent on breast exams

Women ages 40 to 49 who do not have family histories of breast cancer should no longer be routinely given mammograms. Nor should all women be taught how to do breast self-exams. Those were two of the recommendations from an independent federal task force that were bound to be controversial. With breast cancer being the second-leading cause of death among women in the United States, the uproar over the change in guidelines is understandable.

Based on scientific evidence derived from an analysis of existing studies and computer modeling, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force found that the net benefit of routine screening for women in their 40s did not outweigh the harm. Among the harms is the impact of false-positive readings, such as anxiety and the pain associated with biopsies and multiple re-examinations. Also found to not be as effective at reducing mortality was the breast self-exam. Meanwhile, the task force found mammograms for women ages 50 to 74 done every other year to be beneficial, and it strongly encouraged physicians to promote screening in this age group.

This marks a reversal of guidance issued in 2002 by the task force. Not everyone agrees with the move. The American Cancer Society looked at the same data used by the task force and concluded that the benefit of lives saved outweighed the harms caused.

The reversal of the seven-year-old guidelines, and the resulting uproar, demonstrate why reducing medical costs will be challenging even with a well-designed health-care reform bill. Ideally, medical practice should follow the evidence. When drugs or procedures are proven to do more harm than good, or to do no more good than safer or less costly alternatives, incentives should be used to discourage them. In practice, though, as new studies overtake old research and new advice contradicts previous guidelines, the result can be confusion and even cynicism—and political pressure to ignore the results.

In this case, many experts agree with the task force's recommendations. But it's important to note that risk factors differ among women. These new guidelines are just that—intended to guide conversations between women and their health-care providers, and to lead as much as possible to informed choices.

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UNEMPLOYMENT OVER 10%

Welfare state of mind

By JIM RAYPHAND
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jim Rayphand is the executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.

What I know about economics, or the Gross National Product, or domestic and international market trends, you could fit in a thimble; however, I do know, at least I can say with some certainty, that welfare programs in general have done more harm than good with respect to the overall state of our economy. That's not to say that welfare is the only reason for the downward spiral of an economy in peril or that there isn't a need for some level of government handouts. We are, after all, a nation spawned through a silent call to, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses." You see, it is part of the natural fiber of American culture to help people in need, those who, through no fault of their own, are unable to take care of themselves or those who are denied freedom as we know it—beware, there is a broad distinction between being unable and being unwilling to do something for one's self.

So, in typical liberal fashion, we took a cultural concept of being willing to lend a helping hand and turned it into a bureaucratic mandate that takes money from those who work to earn it and hands it out to those who don't. Worst of all, there is absolutely no expectation of anything in return (heaven forbid we should ask someone on welfare to give something back to the community). In truth, the welfare system as we know it today is a far cry from the vision of government-subsidized work forces in the era of the "New Deal"—a time when people were compelled to work for what they received. Nowadays, too many people feel entitled to freebies with no sense of obligation to earn what they get. Thus, in my humble opinion, our economic crisis is not simply a shortage of opportunities; rather, it is a "crisis of culture," a culture in which we expect to get something for nothing and a culture in which it is perfectly acceptable to spend what little we do have on vices while the government foots the bill for our housing, food and medical expenses. For lack of a better term, our society is awash with a mutant culture that lives and breeds in a welfare state of mind.

In the past month, I enlisted the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. into a working agreement with the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. to facilitate the expenditure of approximately $500,000 of federal "stimulus" money. Specifically, the program is intended to provide direct financial assistance to people who are homeless or at-risk of being homeless. My intent was simple enough—I wanted to give our own clients, individuals with disabilities and their families, a leg up in accessing this assistance and, for those that meet the criteria, we are doing just that. Unfortunately, we've also become inundated with requests that range in merit from asinine to ridiculous and, in some cases, fraudulent. Please excuse my candor, but it's not often that I find myself at the receiving end of a mob looking for a free handout. The problem is that now we are having to invest an inordinate amount of time processing (i.e., reviewing and compiling evidence for merit of claim) that could just as easily be resolved if most of the people themselves would acknowledge that they don't qualify or if so many people didn't automatically feel entitled to free government money. I could go on and on with my general disgust at the lengths people will go but I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that, for the most part, a majority of our applicants are struggling. With minimum wage as it is, a hardworking couple could be working full-time and, depending on several factors, including but not limited to the number of children they have, would still fall below the national poverty line. This is only the tip of a lengthy discussion for another time. For the purposes of this particular program, however, homelessness is the pivotal criteria, not just low income.

In terms of NMPASI's mission, we exist *To Protect the Civil, Legal and Human Interests of Individuals with Disabilities*, so our involvement in this housing program is an experiment in our efforts to address the human interests of our clients. As a nonprofit organization, it is a logical step to branch out and avail of multiple funding sources. But make no mistake, this "stimulus" program in and of itself is a welfare/dependence program that in essence goes against the grain of NMPASI's seven other federal grant programs that promote independence…again, a lengthier discussion for another time.

Despite the hassle and general headaches of trying to weed through bogus applications in order to assist those who qualify, I take some comfort in the level of discretion granted to me by the funders of this program (namely NMHC and HUD), who allow me to establish some basic parameters in how we roll this out to the community. Welfare or not, recipients of this program (by virtue of it being administered by NMPASI) will be held to a minimum set of expectations, not the least of which will be to beat the streets and find a way to support yourself…all people, disability or otherwise, should be accountable for themselves. So, fare thee well, but ask not what you country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.

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Why I'm so sweet

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

In the Commonwealth blood sugar isn't a mere footnote in a biology text, but is instead one of the top (if not the top) public health concerns. I am in minor awe of anyone who can engage in any form of dietary discipline, since I have grunted through life as a feral omnivore. Just for the heck of it, I decided to tally the amount of sugar in a snack I had. The results were surprising. I knew junk food has sugar, but I didn't know how much it can hold.

As for the snack, it was admittedly a pretty piggy one: One and a half candy bars and a 12-ounce can of Coke. It was one of those days when I simply didn't have a way to eat anything normal, so I had to feast off the meager offerings of a small gift shop or not eat at all. It took less than two minutes for me to oink down the chow.

Anyway, the analysis of my two-minute snack runs like so: Each Milky Way Midnight Dark candy bar had 30 grams of sugar listed. A 12-ounce can of Coke carries a 39 gram payload of sugar. So, a candy bar and a half, plus a Coke, comes to a tidy 84 grams of sugar.

You might observe, quite correctly, that more than one candy bar is pretty extreme, and I'd agree, but, on the other hand, a mere 12-ounce soda is nothing compared to the super-sized ones out there, or the 1-liter bottles.

Anyway, for this case, 84 grams it is. That all seems very scientific I guess, but I have no idea what a gram is. I've never seen a gram. I've never talked to a gram. I don't know if a gram is big and fat and jolly, or maybe short and wimpy and dour. I draw a blank.

But I can relate to a teaspoon. I read on the Internet that one teaspoon equates to 4.2 grams of sugar. It must be true, because it's on the Internet.

So we're talking 20 teaspoons of sugar for an 84-gram dose.

If you lined up 20 teaspoons of sugar, and offered me a hundred bucks to consume it all, I'd refuse the bet. And I ain't no health guru. But even I know that some things just aren't real smart to do.

I don't think adults eat candy bars very often; I think that's more for kids. But sodas are ubiquitous. Go to a picnic or a fiesta, and anyone who isn't drinking beers and who has a sweet tooth and who is a bit gluttonous might easily down three cans of pop. That's going to amount to about 28 teaspoons of sugar.

If you're waiting for me to deftly transition to some Big, Social Agenda here, which leads to the requisite call for a Crusade to Save Us from Ourselves (as if there's any shortage of such crusades), well, don't hold your breath. My only point is that it's easy for average guys like me to scarf a lot of sugar if they steer for the junk food. Given the nature of the modern Western diet (which Saipan, hemispherical placement notwithstanding, has embraced), I can see what a daily struggle it would be for those so tasked to maintain any semblance of discipline in the sugar department.

If you're going to eat your way to an early grave, I think that traveling for a living can do it. Restaurants are one thing, and ad hoc snacks gleaned from airport newsstands merely compound the problem. One of the first things I learned as a pilot was to carry a couple of rolls of quarters in my flight bag so I could feed the vending machines.

Despite my taste for soda, I'm a piker compared to some other guys. I used to work with a guy who drank six Dr. Peppers a day, and I mean every single day, starting with one for breakfast. He told me he had followed this regimen for over 22 years and never had so much as a cavity. I asked him how he could get away with this. His theory was that his consistent intake (always six per day: never five, never seven) provided a stable equilibrium condition for his body.

Whether you agree with that logic or not, you can't dispute that life darned sure isn't fair. Genetics deals the cards. We mortals are left being dragged back and forth over a razor's edge that separates fate from will; unfortunately, in the great candy bar wrapper of life, they never seem to disclose this fact.

US Immigration 101

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

We have China to thank for in the evolution of the immigration service system in the United States. Until the Civil War between the Gray and the Blue, migrating to the United States was nothing but a walk-in process. One only needed to show up. In fact, forebears of the Qins (pronounced Chins, from where the word "China" came from), and the Hans (who called themselves people of the Middle Kingdom, *Zhong Guo*) crossed the Bering Straits a few millennia back to people the Americas.

One of the reasons for the revolt against George III was his interference with immigration to the colonies. The popular sentiment before the War of the States worded in the original treaty between the United States and China is reflected in this phrase: *"inherent and inalienable right of man (sic) to change his home and allegiance."* This is a radical statement today, and it already mirrored 1860s U.S. opinion, particularly in the Treaty of Tienjin and the Burlingame-Seward Treaty, albeit designed to favor U. S. trade in China rather than echo the understanding of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

Reality in policy making was different from the railroad tracks where Chinese coolies were massively deployed, and the western gold mine fields where they were barred from mining though allowed to handle the laundry and the chow. Four Chinese were reported in the 1840 Census; by 1870, close to 65,000 were counted, with half of the male workers in California being Chinese.

That's when the eurocentricity of American identity reared its ugly head. Already, the Naturalization Act of 1790 first restricted citizenship to "free white persons" of "good moral character." Descendants of the pilgrims were partial to people of color! That set, Caucasians were unconditionally welcomed.

The Naturalization Act of 1870 barred the Chinese from gaining citizenship and the journey down to "yellow peril" and "yellow fever" followed close behind. United States immigration laws were designed to keep the Chinese out. Period. Do I need to repeat that? That the federal government bothered to act on immigration at all, not one of its specified constitutional functions, testifies to the racial intensity surrounding the passage of the Act and subsequently acted immigration bills since. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 turned the policy of *"inherent and inalienable right of man"* on its head. Chinese migration was halted for a decade and naturalization was denied. It also created the first "green card," a document Chinese had to have if they traveled to China, in order to return to the U.S. Ex-Europeans were not required to carry the same.

Ten years later, Ellis Island would open its arms to immigrants from northern Europe, but not so fast on Italians and the Jews. Tan skin did not quite pass muster at the height of social Darwinism where the Aryan race was adjudged superior to any descendant of the primordial primates, particularly those coming from southern Europe and North Africa, and the Fertile Crescent!

The French honored the United States with a gift in the centennial celebration of American Independence with *La Liberté Éclairant le Monde,* popularly known as the Statue of Liberty. Portion of Emma Lazarus' poem of the New Colossus, written two years before the official Statue inauguration, would be etched on a bronze plaque at the base of the statue at the turn of the century. It reads:

"Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Great moving words for prospective immigrants! Bah, hambug! If NY'a Ellis Island facilitated entry into the U.S., the Immigration Station at Angel Island in the Bay of San Francisco delayed and barred entry of Asians into the United States in the first half of the 1900s. What started as Chinese exclusion would spread to other "subordinate" races; Filipinos were barred U.S. citizenship as a U.S. Commonwealth in 1935, and hurriedly disenfranchised as nationals on 1946 Fourth of July.

I rehash these historical marks for our foreign contingent in the CNMI waiting for federalization to happen after 11.28.09 just so we understand that the urban legend of the U.S. Immigration doling out visas come December to everyone with status in the CNMI, similar to the Reagan fiat of citizenship in 1986, is not going to happen. Nor do we expect the eurocentric orientation of policies to be lifted out soon in spite of this week's Obama declaration that he is the first Pacific President of the nation. If it does, I will commit *seppuku* on Banzai Cliff as homage to the shrine's *kamikaze* force.

It seems ironic that centrally managed economies seem to fair better in the equity scale at the distributive end of the "free market" than their democratic counterparts. Communist China's economic boom, impressive as it has been, however, benefits only about 20 percent of its population. The remaining 80 percent are in rural areas, low-income sections of urban areas, or are seeking ways to migrate elsewhere. Preferred destination is the United States.

The CNMI has a U.S. zip code, ergo a preferred destination. In a recruitment company in Jiangsu Province that sought garment workers for places like Madagascar and Morocco, Pakistan and Bangladesh, Korea and Japan, Vietnam and Thailand, the most requested destination was the United States. In fact, workers actually paid for the privilege of coming to Saipan, much like the way the *maître d'* in fancy restaurants actually collects a fee from waiters who wish to work at high-priced eateries. Some of those who took out loans and emptied savings to come here, including students and tourists, peons and paupers, are still here, waiting for the green federalization flash to flicker and flare.

There has been wailing and gnashing of teeth in the colorful journey of U.S. immigration. The Republican Congress of 1996 included draconian measures that made sure those citizens and permanent residents sponsoring immigrants are obligated to support them for life. Bill Clinton signed the law.

Chamolinians have a chance to reverse American history. Since they already ceded the best real estate of the Tapochau ridge to "foreigners," would they enable the integration of their foreign neighbors into the NMI-American family? Would you?

Letters to the Editor

Let's not be fooled

Election year always magnify issues that of utmost importance to the people. The latest issue is health care or our CHC. Of course the governor acted wisely in thinking out of the box and pursuing the route that will enable the CHC to hire necessary personnel to improve the situation. Our Legislature, of course, is pointing the finger at the administration when they are the ones holding the purse. It is not fair for the Legislature to blame the administration. It is understandable that when resources is limited certain services will be affected. The CNMI tax base, which are the garment factories and the tourism industry, went south. Again, what the CNMI is experiencing is exactly what Guam Memorial Hospital experienced in the 1990's, that is, budgetary constraints, pointing to the economy and the Guam Legislature as the culprit. I used to live in Guam and I saw the picture of GMH. I see the same picture here in the CNMI. So let us not be fooled and let us all try to understand and see the truth. The fact is, the governor is acting to solve the problem while the legislators are dancing around the bonnie fire hoping to burn us all. They should be helping the governor find solutions instead of simply barking like wild wolves.

Frank M. Atalig
Sinapalo, Rota

Clarification

This is in reference to the Nov. 16, 2009, *Marianas Variety* item "Promises vs Reality" about beach trash.

This is to clarify that CNMI beaches are cleaner now than ever before.

Contrary to an allegation contained in the subject 11-16-09 item, Coastal Resources Management, through aggressive education and outreach strategies has indeed reduced pollution of CNMI beaches. This conclusion is supported by unbiased observations and confirmed by a recent House of Representatives Resolution.

Just one month ago, on October 17th, House Resolution No. 16-97, certified by Arnold I. Palacios and supported by Heinz S. Hofschneider, was presented to a deserving representative of "environmental leaders" at Sugar Dock who help CRM care for the beaches. The Resolution expressed appreciation for the success of "promoting and educating the people on issues of environmental cleanliness", and honored the role CRM and DEQ play in reducing beach pollution, particularly over the last two years.

John B. Joyner, Ph.D.
Director, CRMO

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87 ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲85 ▼75
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲84 ▼77
Kosrae	Rain	▲86 ▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲87 ▼78

Around The Globe

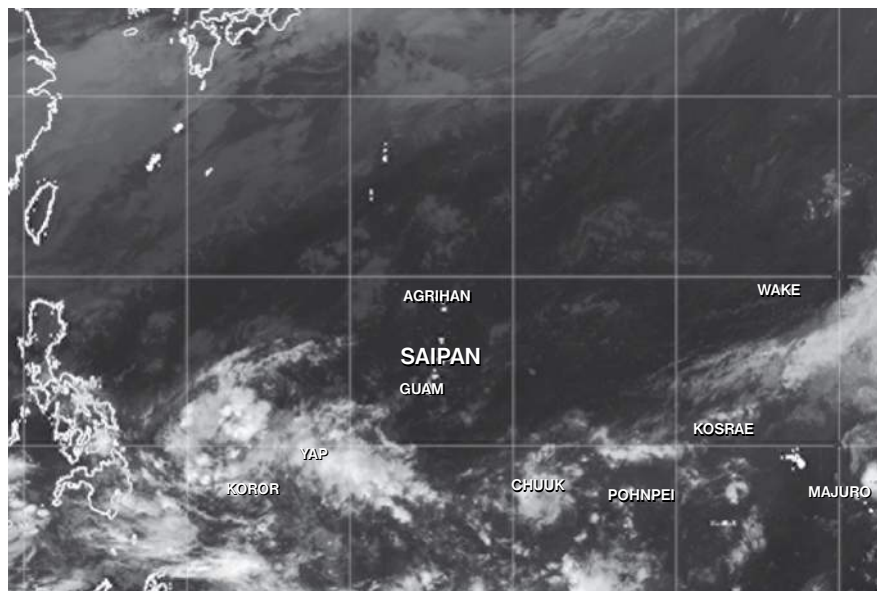
Auckland	Cloudy	▲68 ▼56
Beijing	Sunny	▲34 ▼25
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲66 ▼60
Honolulu	Showers	▲81 ▼73
London	Partly Sunny	▲57 ▼50
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲72 ▼52
Manila	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲101 ▼69
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲82 ▼70
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲59 ▼53
Osaka	Cloudy	▲55 ▼45
Paris	Sunny	▲57 ▼46
Pusan	Cloudy	▲51 ▼33
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲69 ▼52
Salem	Rain	▲53 ▼42
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲61 ▼49
Seoul	Snow	▲37 ▼19
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲55 ▼42
Washington, DC	Rain	▲62 ▼50

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:37 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
10:58 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:19 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
10:56 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The monsoon trough extends eastward from 6N130E through weak circulations centered near Koror at 6N136E and near Chuuk at 6N152E to finally end near 7N161E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found south of a line extending from 6N130E to 2N140E to 2N149E over Yap and near Koror within an area bounded by a line from 10N130E to 8N133E to 7N145E to 13N133E back to 10N130E over Chuuk within 125 miles of 8N152E and southwest of Pohnpei within 150 miles of a line from 3N157E to EQ156E. An upper-level trough extends southwestward from 25N175E to 16N162E then continues westward to end at 17N148E. Extensive cloudiness, scattered showers and a few thunderstorms can be found within 200 miles of a line fom 12N167E to 24N180. A weak trade-wind disturbance is triggering scattered showers over Majuro within 125 of 7N173E. A shear line extends southwestward from 25N140E to 21N130E. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are occurring alone and to the north of this feature.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:21 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:22 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:22 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:08 AM	8:33 PM
Saturday	9:55 AM	9:26 PM
Sunday	10:38 AM	10:16 PM
Monday	11:18 AM	11:05 PM
Tuesday	11:55 AM	11:52 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 4, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:45am	5:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:15pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:30am	4:05am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:20am	4:05am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW298	10:05pm	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	4, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1 via GUM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	2,4,6,7 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Fighting the good fight

By TINA SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Tina Sablan is a representative in the 16th Legislature.

"Yes, it is impossible — therefore, it will take a little longer."
—Paolo Lugari

In the days that have passed since the Nov. 7 election, I have heard from many citizens who are deeply disappointed with the election results. Some have concluded that the people of the CNMI are either not ready for change, or they do not want change. Some have told me that they are ready to give up on this community, and have asked me whether I am ready to give up as well.

I am writing now to call on all the good people of the Commonwealth to take heart and remember what we have always known: that change is a process. It is often a slow process, and an uphill battle, and there will always be setbacks along this journey. We must expect setbacks, and continue to move forward nevertheless with our eyes set firmly on our vision for a healthier, more just, and more prosperous future.

We must also recognize signs of hope and progress when they occur. There have indeed been significant and positive signs of change—yes, even with this election.

Looking back, we recall that in 2007 slightly over 1,000 people voted for a candidate who didn't run with a political party, didn't promise any political jobs or favors, didn't fundraise or spend a lot of money campaigning, and who talked about the importance of open and honest government to anyone who would listen.

In 2009, over 2,400 people voted for that candidate in an islandwide race for the Senate—not enough to win a Senate seat, but certainly more than enough to show a significant and slowly-growing base of citizens who also want open and honest government. Even more significantly, over two-thirds of the voters throughout the Commonwealth—more than 7,300 people—voted yes to a more transparent legislature and ratified the Open Government Act popular initiative.

I would call that progress. It might be slower than some of us would like, but it is still progress, and it is worth celebrating. Those 7,300 people who voted yes to the Open Government Act initiative could comprise a powerful voting bloc and a solid base for any movement for good governance in the CNMI.

Looking ahead now, many are asking: What are our next steps?

Our most immediate next step is to participate in the runoff election on Nov. 23, and to encourage our friends, family, and neighbors to do the same. Our duty is to ensure that we are well-informed about the records, platforms, and characters of the two gubernatorial candidates, and that we vote carefully and wisely, with the long-term interests of our community foremost in our minds.

Beyond Nov. 23, and regardless of the runoff election results, we must continue to build a more active citizenry and raise our collective level of civic awareness, beginning with ourselves. Each of is called to be the change we wish to see in our Commonwealth. I have always believed that one of the most powerful ways to effect change is to lead by the example of our own lives. If we aspire to be a community of great citizens and principled leaders, we must ourselves be great citizens and principled leaders, and we must raise our children to be the same: to be thinkers, to ask questions, to seek their own answers and not simply accept what they are told, and to expect more of themselves, of each other, and of their government. It is up to all of us who desire real, meaningful change in the CNMI to do everything that we can to nurture the core values of citizenship and leadership in our children who are truly the future of this place.

In an open letter dated January 2007, I wrote:

"As citizens, as residents, as taxpayers of the Commonwealth, we have more power than we think—far more power

See FIGHTING on Next Page

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DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH • CNMI • HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Letters to the Editor

A lie is a lie

I am writing this letter because I feel the people of this Commonwealth need to know the truth.

When the team of Fitial and Inos met with former senator Ray (Kumoi) Deleon Guerrero, Kumoi asked Fitial and Inos if they were still cooling the engines at the power plant with untreated water. They told Kumoi that they were. But they had a new water treatment plant on order. When Fitial and Inos came over to Kumoi's residence to talk to Kumoi's support group, I asked them the same question and I got a totally different answer. They claimed that they had installed a new water treatment plant at the power plant three months ago. Now what is the truth? To me, it does not matter because the fact of the matter is that they lied to one of us. If they will lie about something like this, think what they will do about something really important.

People of the CNMI, wake up! Look at the facts. Mr. Fitial won the last election four years ago by lying to you. He promised that he would not use the money from the general fund for his lawsuit against the feds. Once again he lied. Fitial talks about leadership and experience. Well, I drive past an example of his leadership every day: the La Fiesta Mall. Once a beautiful shopping mall but now a rundown, dilapidated and unsightly mess that is still costing hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxpayer's money. Wake up, people, while you still have an island to call your home.

I have been speaking out against the Fitial administration and, guess what, I am now receiving threatening phone calls at my home. To the two men who are making the phone calls, I have just this to say: If your are as stupid as you seem to be, if the truth hurts you so bad, you have a serious personal problem, seek professional help. But if you do come after me, bring plenty of help and make sure that the emergency room at the hospital is open. You will need it.

Fredrick A. Prosser
As Matuis, Saipan

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FIGHTING

From Page 13

than we have ever exercised. We can do more than just complain in private about the decisions our elected officials make, and wait and hope for change in the next election. Elected officials only have as much power as we give them, and it is up to us to demand the representation we deserve. Protests, rallies, civil disobedience, letters, petitions, lawsuits, intelligent voting, participating in public hearings and legislative sessions, and running for office—these are just a few of the options we have for taking direct action to realize the changes that we want."

At the time I had named the Save Sugar Dock campaign, the 2006 Micro Games, and the Beautify CNMI! coalition as notable examples of organized community-based action. Since then, concerned citizens and residents have also successfully pushed for the passage of the runoff election initiative, the defeat of the Saipan Casino Act, the creation of the national marine monument, the ratification of the Open Government Act popular initiative, the enactment of the Smoke Free Air Act, the passage of U.S. Public Law 110-229, and greater flexibility in the proposed federal immigration regulations. In just the past two years alone, I have personally witnessed hundreds of residents, including young students, march up to Capital Hill or to public forums and rallies throughout the CNMI to testify for or against proposed legislation, to call for an independent desk audit of the government, to protest mismanagement of our public utilities, to urge for the protection and wise stewardship of public lands, and to appeal to both federal and local authorities for immigration and labor reform.

More and more, we have been openly discussing the problems of the Commonwealth, identifying constructive solutions, and demanding accountability from our leaders. This is just the beginning of a long-term movement for good governance and a more active and informed citizenry. It transcends any one election, and it is more powerful than all of our politicians combined.

And so to answer the question that I am asked most often these days—no, I am not packing my bags and giving up on the CNMI. My heart is here. The 2009 election might have closed one door for me as a legislator, but I see other doors that have opened for me as a private citizen and for us as a community. And I personally feel much freer as a citizen to keep doing what I have been doing, and more.

I owe a debt of gratitude to all who have given me the great privilege of serving in the House of Representatives, and who supported my candidacy for the Senate: my deepest thanks for your encouragement, confidence, constructive criticism, questions, and ideas these past two years. My term in the House and campaign for the Senate have given me much valuable insight. I see the continuing failures and shortcomings in our system of government, the progress that has been made, and the long road ahead. And I also see that so much more can be done outside of the Legislature, if there are enough caring citizens who are organized and willing to work toward a more transparent, more accountable, and more responsible government.

We will continue to make progress as a community as long as there are still people who love this place who are willing to stick around and keep fighting the good fight. I see no reason to give up now, or ever, on the CNMI, and every reason to continue and expand upon the work that has only just begun.

May we all continue to fight the good fight.

"The citizen can bring our political and governmental institutions back to life, make them responsive and accountable, and keep them honest. No one else can."

—John Gardner

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Letters to the Editor

Wake up Marianas!

Aside from the four years of financial and management crisis under the leadership of our Governor Benigno R. Fitial—from the power blackouts of nearly six months and continuous high utility rates with CUC, non-compliance with federal orders, a crisis with the Commonwealth Health Center, doctors and nurses quitting, dialysis center not functional years after completion, uncollected accounts receivables of over $150 million, crisis with the NMI Retirement Fund and depleting its funds for pension payments to retirees and future retirees because the government have been withholding employer's contribution payments to the Fund, crisis with the Commonwealth Ports Authority with high turnover of management and decrease in fees for payment of obligations, crisis with the Department of Public Safety with low employees morale and low salaries for years, crisis with mounting court orders (judgment), and million of dollars of unused Capital Improvement Projects that may be taken away by the federal government—there is no further justifications for this beautiful Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and its people to continue to hire the same governor, Benigno R. Fitial to be its governor for the next five years. We deserve a better governor to lead us for the next five years from theses crises! If Heinz S. Hofschneider does not perform and solve these crises, then we will rerplace him during the next election.

The other reason is that since we joined the American political family, the United States of America has recognized only two political parties, the Democratic Party and Republican Party. In Washington, D.C., especially in the U.S. Congress, you are either representing the Democratic Party or Republican Party. If the CNMI wants to be assisted in the U.S. Congress, you have to join or lobby with the Democrat or Republican parties. This is the reason why CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan joined the Democrat Party. If you go to the U.S. Congress and you try to get help and you say you represent the Covenant Party, you have a lot of work to explain what the Covenant Party is. The U.S. Congress does not know the Covenant Party. This is the reason we have to deal with only either the Democratic Party or the Republican Party. Since Heinz S. Hofschneider is the candidate for the highest office here in the CNMI representing the Republican Party, we can send him to Washington to meet with the U.S. President or U.S. Congress without any political problem.

This election for governor/lieutenant governor is very important to solve our internal crises and be able to get help from our political family, the United States of America. Again, in five years if Heinz does not solve these crises, we will hire (vote) for another governor.

Juan Manglona Sablan
As Lito, Saipan

Look at the hard facts

To paraphrase what former U.S. President Ronald Reagan said: "Some people spend a lifetime wondering if they made a difference. Gov. Benigno Fitial will never be accused of having that problem."

On Monday, there will be a runoff to determine who shall preside over the fortunes of the CNMI in the next four years as its governor. Our community is in dire times. As a concerned voter, ask yourself this simple question: What has either candidate done in the past to truly become our next governor in the future?

Heinz Hofschneider's performance over the last two decades as a legislator has been lackluster and ineffective. Heinz has been a mere window dressing to gawk at while producing nothing more than promoting the Republican Party line. What bills has Heinz made into law that helped our community increase its revenue base all these years? Zero. What he has done is introduce, bounce around, and encourage bills to spend monies we didn't have. And as speaker of the House, he failed dismally, unable to control his own party members. But much more frightening, he has been patiently awaiting his turn in the GOP dysfunctional hierarchy to run for higher office. The idea of "change," his mantle, is a falsehood, a feel-good effort on his part to win votes through emotion and dissatisfaction with the present administration, rather than based on cold, hard facts. Heinz, as a governor, is Heinz the failed legislator. Heinz does what all politicians do: Make false promises.

This is not the story with Governor Fitial. His performance is a matter of record for all to see: kept us out of the dark while previous governors were grossly incompetent of doing so (CUC); terminated massive fraud and wild overspending that other governors actively allowed to their personal benefit (MPLA); reined in a once pump of free monies to connected politicos with no payback penalties that other governors gleefully encouraged (CDA); declared a state of emergency—to protect the health of our people—to right the wrongs created by the last GOP governor (CHC). And in face of all these difficulties, brought in Asian investors who trust his leadership now and in the future.

Has Governor Fitial stumbled in some areas while displeasing those in others? Certainly, that's part of being in command. But after 34 years of GOP control, corruption and rot, and inheriting a dysfunctional government and a fractured community, he has solved most all of those Republican Party's problems, with more yet to finish. Uncle Ben has fought the good fight. He deserves to be re-elected.

Lee Andersen
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
November 18, 2009

Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to that certain **Writ of Execution on Personal Property** by the **CNMI Superior Court in Civil Action No. 04-0588C**, the Commonwealth Development Authority ("CDA"), **together with assistance of the CNMI Department of Public Safety**, shall auction off to the highest bidder **assets of Westpac Freight including furniture, fixtures, trucks and various other items.**

An inventory listing may be obtained at CDA Office, Gualo Rai or on our website at www.cda.gov.mp.

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:
1. The items are being sold **"AS IS"** and **"WHERE IS"**;
2. The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at the **Westpac Freight Parking Lot, Lower Base, Saipan on Friday, November 20, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.**;
4. Terms of the sale are cash, certified check, or credit card (Visa & Mastercard); and
5. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

Full payment of the bid amount is required before the property can be removed from site. Payment must be received before end of business day, 4:30 p.m. Friday, November 20, 2009. Failure to make full payment will cause award to be null and void.

CDA is attempting to collect a debt and any payments received will be used for that purpose. Any interested party or person may contact Mr. Oscar C. Camacho, Loan Manager, CDA at 234-7145 for further information or to inspect the items. Failure to inspect the property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer. All sales are final.

Dated this 18th day of November, 2009

Commonwealth Development Authority
/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

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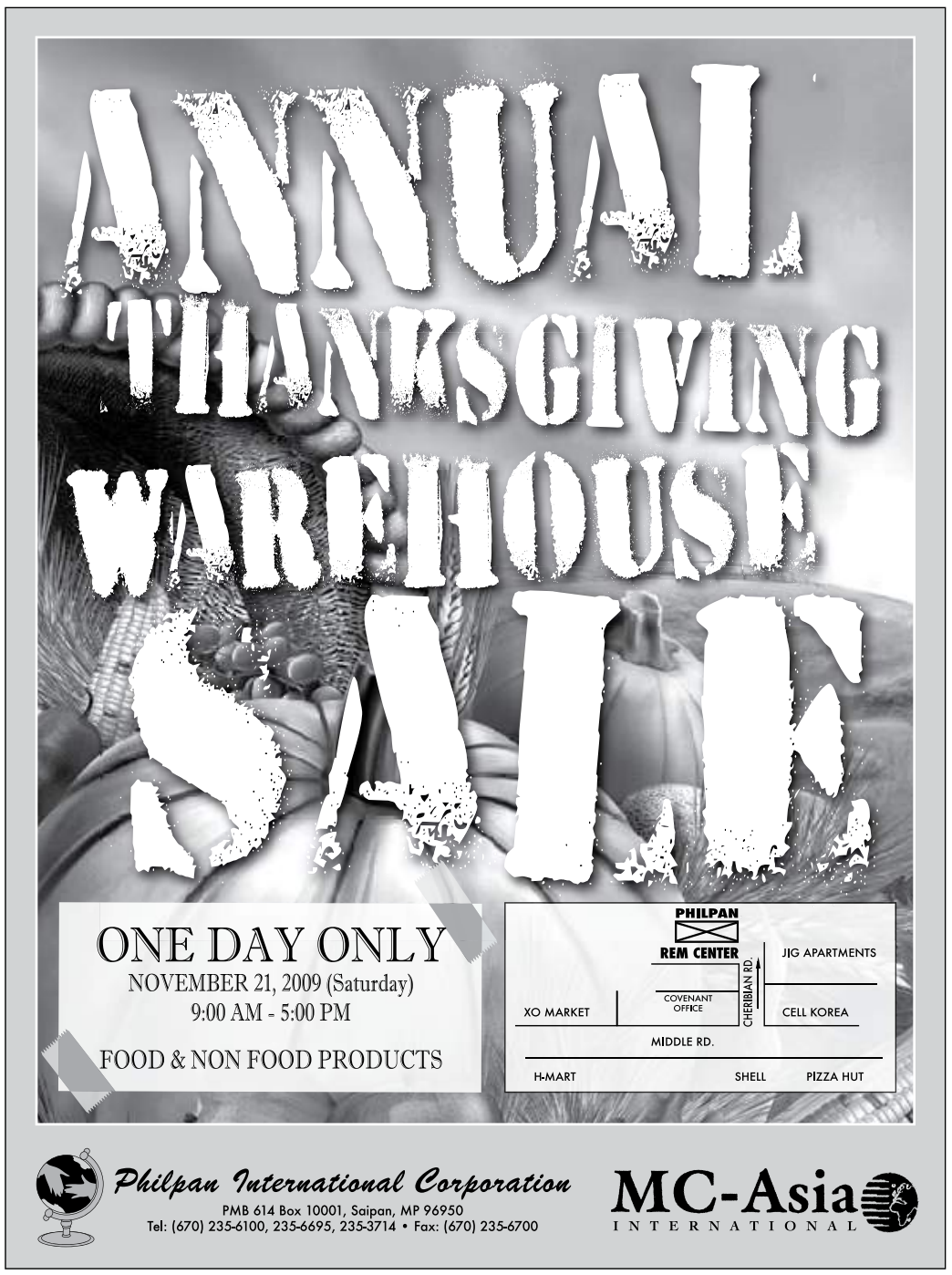

Letter to the Editor

Vote for good apples

Two weeks ago in a letter to the *Saipan Tribune* I wrote about the characteristics of legislators that were "good and bad apples." I observed these people working in the House of Representatives for almost two years. I did not point fingers or name anyone, but I feel I must take my thoughts one step further to provide a benefit to your readers.

For almost two years I attended 26 meetings at the House of Representatives. One legislator joked with me that I came more than some of the members. It became clear to me who the outstanding members were and my observations were confirmed by Rep. Joe Camacho in his "Mid-Term Report Card" that he published on his Web site. Joe's poll data then and my observations now indicate that Rep. Heinz Hofschneider and Speaker Arnold Palacios are truly outstanding legislators

These two men set examples that the people of the CNMI could be proud of! I will never forget the passion that Heinz had for protecting the rights of our fisherman when the military wanted to limit access to the Northern Islands. Heinz always came to meetings prepared to debate the issues being discussed and the other members of the House always gave him respect and listened to his point of view. When the governor vetoed key bills and the House debated override, Heinz helped the others see the consequences of letting the veto stand. He won most of the battles, but some did not always agree with him.

The voters should go to the record books to see how Heinz and Arnold voted on key legislation. I think they would see men who have the welfare of the CNMI deep in their hearts. They wanted to do the best for all the people. There were very hard and emotional debates on things like health care, privatization of CUC, the Retirement Fund, the Marianas Trench Monument, budget and spending controls, cooperation with the other branches of government, etc. Heinz always brought solutions to these discussions because he understood the issues and the impact on people.

Heinz and Arnold are men of principle! They respect the rule of law. They would not do to others what they would not do to themselves. The CNMI has many problems and I have never seen them make political moves that would help themselves alone. Their commitment to the people of the CNMI is solid, honest, and trustworthy!

During the two years that I attended the House meetings I have gotten to know Heinz and Arnold. One time I met Heinz in Ace Hardware shopping for some do-it-yourself things (just like me). We ended up talking for about a half hour on issues that were being discussed at the House. On another occasion I had gone to the Legislature only to find that the meeting was canceled. I met Arnold by chance and we sat in the Speaker's conference room for over an hour talking about the CNMI. I learned that these men love their home and the people living here. They want to do the best for all of us. I am nobody in the CNMI, but they took their time to talk to me because I was interested, I had come to their House meetings to learn about the CNMI, and I think that they appreciated that fact.

These are good men; they have plans and strategies that will lead to the solutions of our problems. They are smart, can speak their minds, work hard, they are principled, and their supporters that I have seen working together with them in the House are all "good apples"!

Remember, your vote has consequences. We need outstanding people in the Executive Branch of government. Heinz would be a truly great governor!

Frank Stewart
Capital Hill, Saipan

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Letters to the Editor

Vote for the alternative

We talk of how we want change and how the CNMI needs leaders that will bring realistic and optimistic ideas to better our Marianas. We talk of leaders that need to be vocal and fight for the rights of the people of the Commonwealth. We talk of leaders with "proven leadership, proven experience, with integrity," and can help us move forward for the betterment of the Commonwealth. Why then are we second-guessing Heinz and Arnold?

Think about it. Another four or five years with this current administration will bring us to rock bottom. We are barely cutting it with surcharge from CUC, poor health care with no doctors, educational system needs help, and safety for our people is barely there. We've gone through austerity because the current Administration has threatened the jobs of many employees, with families to raise and support, by hiring over-the-cap individuals who are lazy, useless, and power hungry. We're suffering as those fortunate ones are living the good life. Why? They only care for themselves and their gain.

Are we going to continue to live like this? Are we going to vote them back into office? "Better times are only for a few." No one believed us then and now we're living it.

We need change to improve our economy. We need change to restore healthcare. We need change for the sake of our young ones' education. We need change for the protection and safety of our people. We need to change this administration and bring our people to prosperity and for the betterment of our Commonwealth.

Like the words of Thomas Jefferson, "In matters of style, swim with the current. In matters of principles, stand like a rock." If you choose to continue to live in this bad economy and these bad times, then "swim with the current," but if you have "principles" and want to contribute to a thriving economy, prosperous living, and better leadership, then stand like a rock and vote for change!

We need to affirm our commitment to change. We need to affirm our commitment to improve the Commonwealth. We need to affirm our commitment to moving forward by supporting and voting for Heinz and Arnold.

Speak up, rise up and vote for Heinz and Arnold. On Nov. 23, vote for the only choice and rest assured that the CNMI will be in good hands because we cannot afford to let it be for five more years, but we certainly can afford the alternative if we make the right decision. Vote Heinz-Arnold.

R. Monique Leon Guerrero
Chalan Kiya, Saipan

A greater, better Commonwealth

My name is Augustine Chang and I currently attend Mount Carmel School. Although I am only a sophomore in high school and I can't vote, I support Heinz Hofschneider and Arnold Palacios because I have seen their support of our youth, our education, our environment and our economy.

Bringing back the airlines is essential to the economy and our well-being because the airlines bring business. These are tourists who travel to our islands and shop, and our retail industry thrives. These tourists stay at hotels and spend money on all sorts of things like rent-a-car, restaurants, and tournaments. Overall, we then will have more customers and participants that would make our islands a well-known and popular place.

Secondly, education is also very important to our island. Education makes people wiser and smarter and our people will be more internationally aware and sensitive. Educated people make our society greater. For example the United States of America has the best colleges in the world, and I believe that it is because of higher education that the United States of America is a superpower. Heinz and Arnold will spend more money in schools and for teachers, unlike our current governor.

Last but not least, Heinz and Arnold are strong advocates of a clean environment. An unclean environment is hazardous to our health and an embarrassment to our islands. Our brochures depict beautiful oceans and seashores that shimmer in the bright sun but sadly it's quite the exact opposite. We are lying to our guests and tourists, which leave a bad reputation for the CNMI. A clean environment provides the foundation for all things to thrive such as education and businesses. A clean environment is healthy for the people and the children. Heinz and Arnold are strong advocates of a clean environment.

For the reasons listed above, I believe that Heinz and Arnold will make our islands better and stronger. For those of you who have the precious power of voting, please vote for Heinz and Arnold, because I want to see greater and better Commonwealth.

Augustine Chang
As Lito, Saipan

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STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
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T06-05291L	2006	SIENNA CE	AUTO	124063	WHITE	ABY-919	12,599	
GM CARS								
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	7,499
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U09-079P	2008	NISSAN FRONTIER PICK UP	AUTO	23179	SILVER	ACL-383	18,199	
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	6,999
GM VAN								
GM6-027L	2006	CHEVY EXPRESS VAN 15-PAX	AUTO	106929	WHITE	BUS-1163	13,699	

WANTED
Looking at selling your vehicle, Microl is looking at purchasing used vehicles between 4 to 5 years of age and in good condition. If you are interested, please visit our Sales Department Monday thru Friday between 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

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TOYOTA ACDelco

Letters to the Editor

Diplomacy in action

Well Mr. Bennett, there you have it. It is now a matter of public record that I not only understand diplomacy, but I can execute the process required to achieve it as well. My apologies to Dr. Arkle Jr. for crediting you with the eight points he shared with CUC has been acknowledged. In addition, he re-educated us all of the grim history as we evolve as a people. However, since you didn't refute the undue credit I gave you, I can only assume that you cherished the thought. Thank you Dr. Arkle Jr.

Mr. Bennett, may I inquire why your letters contain so much animosity? Does society owe you anything? Your reference to a student asking you the difference between Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the governor implies to me that you're pressing your political agenda on students. This is a big concern since your views border on hate and insecurity exhibiting inferiority complex. While our country is blessed with freedom of speech, it should only extend to the point where it does no harm to anyone. Shouldn't the parents and the Board of Education be concerned when an employee of the PSS exhibits such behaviors? I'm flattered you mention my name more than is necessary in your letter. It even got me calls from fans on Tinian; however, truth be told, this is the action of an irate individual.

The U.S. is a nation of laws. All federal programs are enacted by Congress and signed by the President and therefore anyone violating such laws by denying benefits to the CNMI shall answer to the might of Uncle Sam. Besides, Barack Obama is the President, not you, and I believe in his virtues as a man. The federal money will continue to come regardless of who the governor is, simply because we are members of the American family. And if input like Dr. Arkle's 8 points continues to pressure people in management, then that light at the end of the tunnel will glow brighter. The question remains: Do we give the reins of power to someone who lacks financial acumen? Can Heinz answer the questions brought out by Mr. Marvin S. Pangelinan?

Folks, the main issue is the economy. The necessary tools are financial acumen and knowledge of the federal bureaucracy, both of which Heinz lack. In contrast, the cumulative know-how of Gov. Ben and Lt. Gov. Eloy is not only the educated choice, but the best choice between two evils, so to speak.

Speaking of Lt. Gov. Eloy, it just so happens that another son of Rota has been honored with a promotion to lieutenant in the Guam Army National Guard. Let me be the first to congratulate publicly Lt. Albert Toves Manglona of Rota for his promotion. Students from Rota have yet to fall under the radar for nomination to the military academies and therefore promotion from enlisted to an officer status can only mean academic excellence and leadership ability, among others. The people of Rota, and the entire CNMI for that matter, should be proud of their sons and daughters who've excelled in pursuing a better future.

The recent endorsement of Hofchneider/Palacios by former lieutenant governor Benjamin Manglona is a shocker though. One of the themes back then was a clarion call in support of Rota's son. I wonder, did he really preach the theme back then out of conviction, or was it self-serving? I suppose it's true, action speaks louder than words. Supporting a native son is a noble tradition for it keeps the community together. My compliments to Sen. Paul Manglona for nurturing this noble tradition.

Andy M. Ramos
Songsong, Rota

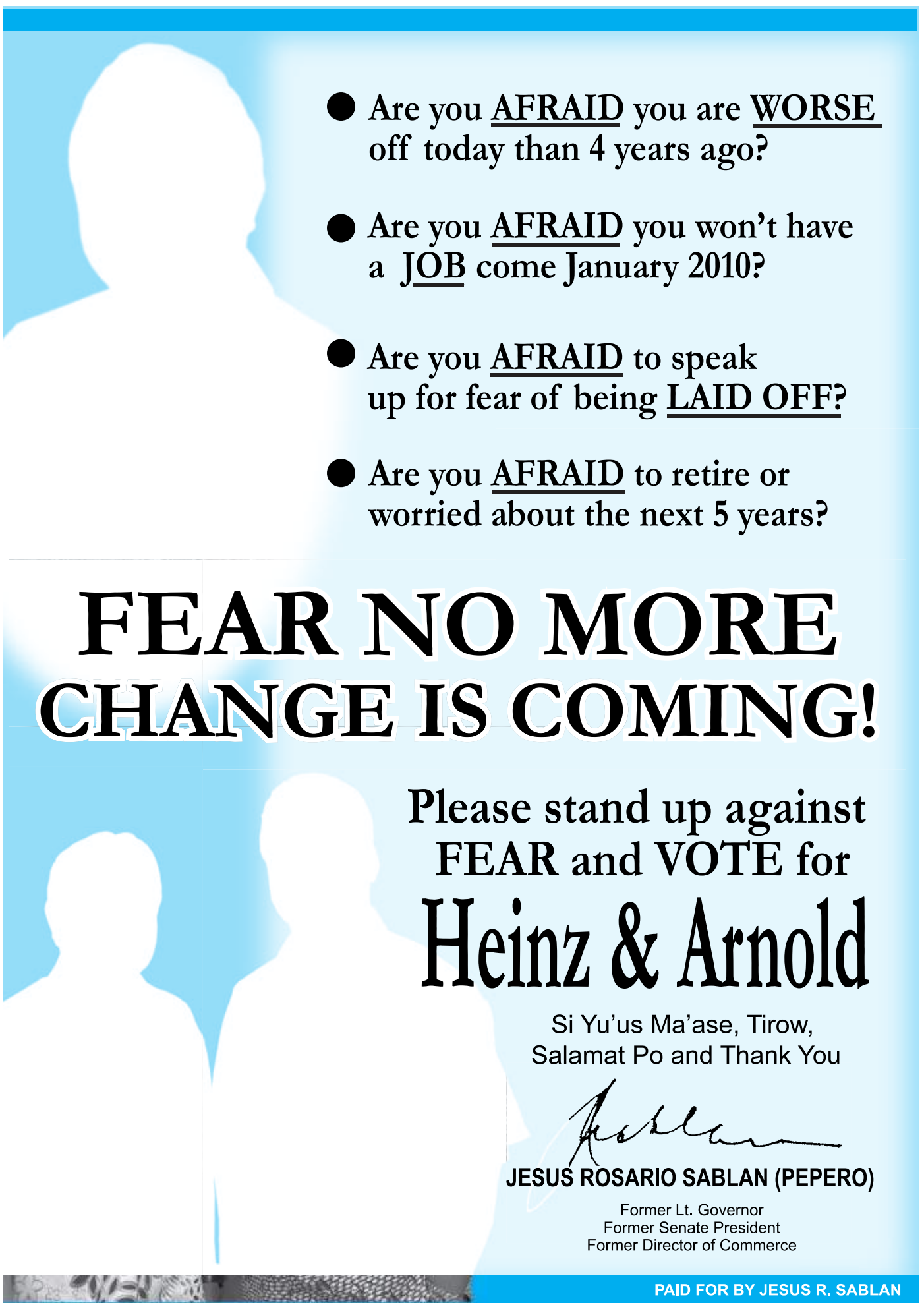
The best choice for governor

Dear citizens of the Commonwealth: Stanley Torres here asking for a couple of minutes of your time. I've been around politics long enough to know good leadership when I see it. That means I also can recognize fluff when I see it. Over the last four years I have seen very positive things happen in our Commonwealth as a result of the Fitial Administration and its ability to get things done for us citizens. I am asking you today, to please place your sacred personal vote with si Ben and Eloy so they can continue the job they have started.

You know me. You know I don't always agree with everything they say or do. You know that in the future if I see something that needs saying, I will say it on your behalf. At the same time it is important to say today that by far the best choice for governor right now is Benigno Fitial and we all know that his lieutenant governor, Eloy Inos, is a man of proven character and leadership qualities too. Together I believe they will finish the good work they have begun. They will find a way to privatize CUC, to continue the CIP projects and bring in more jobs and money to our economy. They will finish the needed airport projects on Tinian and keep Rota growing too as those two islands bring their visitor industries to higher levels. They will solve infrastructure issues on Saipan and continue to ensure the Retirement Fund is there for us all. They will accomplish these and much more that needs doing in their next term. I am excited about the future that the Ben and Eloy team offer us. Please join me in voting for them next Monday, the 23rd of November.

Thank you for reading and thank you for re-electing me to be your voice in the 17th Legislature. I promise to do the best job possible and to devote myself to your welfare during the upcoming term. *Si yuus masse, oolomway, salamat* and thank you.

Rep. Stanley McGinnis Torres
16th Legislature, Capital Hill


● Are you AFRAID you are WORSE off today than 4 years ago?
● Are you AFRAID you won't have a JOB come January 2010?
● Are you AFRAID to speak up for fear of being LAID OFF?
● Are you AFRAID to retire or worried about the next 5 years?
FEAR NO MORE
CHANGE IS COMING!
Please stand up against FEAR and VOTE for
Heinz & Arnold
Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Tirow,
Salamat Po and Thank You
JESUS ROSARIO SABLAN (PEPERO)
Former Lt. Governor
Former Senate President
Former Director of Commerce
PAID FOR BY JESUS R. SABLAN

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (a) and (b), the Commonwealth Election Commission, hereby give notice that the Commonwealth Election Commission will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 23, 2009, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan. Additional information concerning this meeting is available at the Office of the Election Commission, currently located at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
a. Roll call
b. Adoption of agenda

II. Executive Director's Report

III. Old Business

a. Run-Off Election Procedures

IV. Miscellaneous

V. Adjournment

/s/ FRANCES M. SABLAN
Chairwoman

(The Commission, pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, may vote to meet in executive session to consult legal counsel and discuss personnel matters.)

FRESH MEATS • FROZEN FOODS • GROCERY ITEMS • PRODUCE

Diamond G Rice $31.99 50 LBS. $13.99 20 LBS.	AAA Elephant Rice $24.99 50 LBS	Brown Rice $4.99 5 LBS	Chicken Leg Quarter LIMIT 2 $21.99 33 LBS. $14.99 22 LBS.	Pork Spareribs LIMIT 2 $15.99 20 LBS.	Baby Ribs LIMIT 2 $15.99 /CASE	Young Whole Chicken LIMIT 2 $33.99 30 LBS.	Gusto Smoked Ham $1.99 /LB	Mackerel Pike $20.99 22 LBS.	Tilapia 99¢ /LB $37.99 /CASE	Beef Back Ribs $23.99 20 LBS.	Turkey Tail LIMIT 2 $15.99 20 LBS.
Beef Knuckle Steak $2.99 /LB.	Flank Steak $17.99 FAMILY BAG	Miller Sausage $14.99 5 LBS.	Chicken Wings $11.99 5 LBS.	Chicken Nuggets $10.99 5 LBS.	Ground Beef $9.99 5 LBS. $16.99 10 LBS.	Beef Rib Finger $2.99 /LB	Ground Pork $16.99 10 LBS.	Chopped Ham $8.99 5 LBS. $15.99 10 LBS.	Bar S Jumbo Franks $1.09 /PKG LIMIT 2	Bar S Bacon $2.49 /PKG.	Hoffy Portugese Sausage $1.99 /PKG.
Beef Ribeye Steak $15.99 FAMILY BAG	Lamb Shoulder Roll $4.99 1 LB.	Hoffy Sausage $6.99 44 OZ.	Beef Patties $3.99 3 LBS.	Turkey $1.99 1 LB.	Pork Loin Boneless $2.99 1 LB.	Beef Pot Roast $3.25 1 LB.	Picnic Smoked Ham $1.99 1 LB.	T-Bone Steak $3.99 /LB.	Beef Top Round Steak $14.99 FAMILY BAG	Crab $7.99 /LB.	
Calamary Seawave $1.99 1 LB.	Vega Shrimp $4.99 1 LB. LIMIT 6	Green Mussels $4.99 2 LB.	Onion 59¢ /LB.	Red Onion 99¢ /LB.	Garlic (4 pcs.) 89¢ /PACK	Orange 89¢ /LB.	Potato (Jumbo) 79¢ /LB.	Banana 99¢ /LB.	Gala Apple Cello Fuji Apple Cello $3.99 PKG.	U.S. Eggs Extra Large $1.99 /DOZ.	

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WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMP

PRICES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

CANNED GOODS • BEVERAGES • SNACKS • GROCERY ITEMS

Spam (All Flavors) $2.29 LIMIT 6 CANS	Tulip Luncheon Meat $1.99 LIMIT 6 CANS	Hormel Corned Beef Hash $1.99 LIMIT 6 CANS	Ox & Palm Corned Beef $2.29 LIMIT 6 CANS	Black Label $1.39 LIMIT 6 CANS	Armour / Libby's Vienna Sausage 59¢ 5 OZ.	Coco Saba $1.49 15 OZ.	Master A1 Tuna 99¢ LIMIT 6 CANS	Hormel Chili No Beans $1.99	Ligo Sardines 3 for $1.00	Beach Cliff Sardines 89¢
Korean Bowl Noodle (Nong Shim) $7.99 /CASE	DelMonte Kernel Corn 79¢	Chicken Noodle 99¢	General Mills Triple pack $7.99 385 OZ.	Sugar $1.79 2 KG.	Kikkoman $3.99 1.6 L LIMIT 6 BTL.	Kimchee Base $4.99 450G	Lemon Powder $4.99 /CASE	Vlassic Dill Pickles $5.99 WHOLE $6.99 SLICE	Flour / Rice Stick 99¢	Excellent Rice Stick 99¢ 8 OZ.	Best Food $9.99 64 OZ.
Chorizzos $25.99	Salad Oil $23.99 5 GALLON	Dragon Vegetable Oil $7.99 1 GALLON	UFC Banana Catchup 99¢ 1 KG	Anchor Fresh Milk $15.99 /CASE	Real Fresh Milk 1 L $19.99 /CASE	Maseca Flour $3.99 5 LBS.	Hungarian Flour $2.75 5 LBS.	Folgers Coffee $9.99 33.9 OZ.	Coffee Mix $6.99 LIMIT 1 100 STICKS	Coffee Mate $1.99 1 LB.	McColls Ice Cream $4.50 /BOX
Seok Water $4.99 /CASE	Cool Aid $7.99 36 QTZ.	Sunkist Juice $5.99 /CASE	Chamorro Punch $8.99	Vitamin Water 12 pcs. $15.99 /CASE	Assam Black Tea $8.99 /CASE	Carlo Rossi 4 L $20.99	Hale's ALL FLAVORS $1.99 /BTL.	Hite / Max Beer WARM ONLY LIMIT 2 $14.99 /CASE	Budweiser/Bud Light Beer WARM ONLY LIMIT 2 $24.99 /CASE	Coke (All Flavors) WARM ONLY LIMIT 2 $12.99 /CASE	Pepsi (All Flavors) WARM ONLY $14.99 /CASE

NON-FOOD

Tide Detergent $3.99 2.8 KG.	Sunburst $3.99 1.34 L	Gain Powder $15.99 120 LOADS	Gain Liquid Detergent $4.99 LIMIT 2	Joy Dishwashing $5.99 90 OZ.	Butane Gas LIMIT 2 CASES $19.99 /CASE	Axxion Foam Plates 125 CT $6.99 LIMIT 1	Luv's Big Box (All Sizes) $17.99 3, 4, 5, 6
Pantene Shampoo 2 for $9.00	Bounty Paper Towel $17.99 15 ROLLS	Table Napkin $3.99 200 COUNT	Dawn Dishwashing $7.99 90 OZ.	Charmin Tissue $6.99 24 ROLLS	Toilet Tissue $3.50 10 ROLLS	Bounty Basic $7.99 8 ROLLS	

FAMILY BAG

Pork Hocks	$8.99
Pork Belly	$10.99
Pork Adobo	$9.99
Pork Spareribs	$5.99
Pork Chops	$10.99
Beef Stew	$13.99
Beef Backribs	$7.99
Beef Shortribs	$13.99
Stewing Chicken	$6.99
Quarter Leg s	$5.99

Letters to the Editor

'It just doesn't worft it'

Although my body's broken, my brain still works and, with this in mind, I had tried, without success, on numerous occasions to get a hold of Heinz and offer my services to help with his campaign. I had called his office on numerous occasions and had also sent e-mail but all were ignored. This was someone I had once considered my friend. Apparently, I was sorely mistaken.

But then I thought I would give Ben & Eloy a call. Not to assist in their campaign but for other reasons and they listened. No waiting, no rush to criticize but truly and honestly listened.

By then, I decided to do my homework and decide who I truly feel is the best team to lead the CNMI for the next four years.

After a lot of research and soul searching, I decided that the team of Ben & Eloy is definitely the best choice. While its true promises were made that, through no fault of their own, they were unable to keep, they are still the best and only choice to lead the NMI in these trying times.

I've read a lot of letters to the editor regarding the administration's lack of keeping their promises of "Better Times." People have to take into consideration that Ben had inherited all the problems associated with being newly elected leader.

I've also noticed that a lot people blame Ben for not getting rid of the fuel surcharge. Come on people! Wake up and smell the coffee! He had no choice because the problems we're experiencing are global and not isolated to our little island. Seems to me that Ben Fitial is the perfect scapegoat. Any and every problem we as a community were subjected to was always Ben's fault.

Last year, I spent two months in a hospital in the Philippines. I had no way of knowing what was happening on Saipan because my family didn't want to worry me. But when I got home, I noticed gas prices were up as well as other commodities but the biggest shock to me was the price of rice. When I had left, Calrose was still $18.95 for 50 lbs but when I returned, it had doubled. Man, I was so mad at Ben for letting this happen.

On top of that, I was bedridden and subjected to power outages every two hours. Damn Ben and this administration. I couldn't believe Ben would do this to us. I swore that if and when I was able to get out of bed, I was going to Capitol Hill and give him a piece of my mind. Then it came to be that the administration hired Aggreko to help subsidize our power woes and, lo and behold, we had consistent power again but at a price most people felt we could not afford. Although a lot of people complained that we couldn't afford it, these same people went home at night to their air-con houses and hot showers and cable TV; they would wake up the next day and go back to blaming Ben all over again.

But then I realized, after reading about what was going on in the world, as an isolated island, we were a lot better off than most. On top of all this, I came to the realization that everything wrong with our islands weren't caused by Ben and he was the only elected official who had the courage and moxie to deal with and find solutions to our problems, no matter what all the complainers and whiners had to say.

He was also the only elected official who submitted realistic budgets and viable solutions without fear of reprisal.

Now, getting back to my old "friend" Heinz, I recently read a political ad stating that he has been a politician for the past 16 years and really has done nothing in all that time. It made me think some more. Really, the only things that stick out was when the Republicans pissed him off, he left the party and went independent. There were also numerous oversight hearings for various government agencies when things didn't go his way. I call this sickness "crybabyitis." It's also deemed in psychology circles of having a Napoleonic syndrome.

Their call for change is ridiculous because the HA team have been in the position to implement change and failed miserably during their term in office.

I've noticed Ben and Eloy don't downgrade their opponents and just stick to the issues at hand. Sure, we can blame Ben for "Bitter Times" but it's that way all over the world. Are we going to blame him for that too?

We should seriously give Ben and Eloy the chance to implement their promises but remember too that they're not to blame for global calamities. That's like saying Ben caused the tsunami in Indonesia as Hurricane Katrina.

Ben and Eloy are my choice to lead us because the alternative of Heinz and Arnold—well, as my old friend Ben Meno from Guam used to say, "It just doesn't worft it."

Michael Geisinger
As Lito, Saipan

Retirees' concerns

Please allow me to address our retirees' very important concerns.

On May 8, 2006, Gov. Fitial said that he wanted the Retirement Fund to write off the government obligation, over a whopping $200 million and counting.

This was followed by a law, spearheaded by this administration, to suspend the government's payments to the Fund. A court found this action unconstitutional.

This action further aggravated, reduced, and severely jeopardized the Fund's ability to provide for you and your family. Your lifetime pension is at great risk.

According to the Fund, the Fitial administration's contributions are near or at zero. This is a far cry from the $500,000 to $800,000 that the last two previous administrations made from time to time.

Remember this come Election Day.

Do the right thing, people of the Marianas, for the sake of our pensions, our security in old age, our peace of mind. Please vote for Heinz S. Hofschneider and Arnold I. Palacios. Our future depends on it.

Luis S. Camacho
Navy Hill, Saipan

I don't care if grandma's house is just around the corner you have to buckle up.
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PUBLIC NOTICE

November 20, 2009

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  1. Roll Call
  2. Adoption of Agenda
  3. Adoption of Minutes
    a. September 11, 2009
    b. September 24, 2009
    c. September 26, 2009
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
  1. Financial Report - CDA
  2. Legal Counsel's Report
IV. DIVISIONS/COMMITTEES
  1. Administrative Matters/Personnel & Budget
  2. Development Corporation Division (DCD)
    a. Update on Foreclosed Properties
  3. DBD/Public Finance Committee
  4. QC Program/Economic Development Activities
    a. World Corporation d.b.a. World Resort Saipan
V. OLD BUSINESS
VI. NEW BUSINESS
VII. OTHER MATTERS
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

WHAT IS THE MARIANAS VARIETY TRYING TO HIDE FROM THE READERS?

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR CLEAN AND POSITIVE CAMPAIGN SO HERE ARE THE FACTS!

The people of the Commonwealth have come to expect bias in different facets of their lives but doesn't the Press have an obligation to its readers to report the facts and not lies? Below is a small example of the news they thought the public didn't need to know.

What else are they not telling the voters?

Saipan Tribune, November 6, 2009

The government will pay a higher employer contribution rate to the NMI Retirement Fund, from the existing 16 percent to 20 percent, beginning pay period ending Nov. 7.

Saipan Tribune, Dec. 22, 2008

Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund board of trustees chair Juan T. Guerrero said a bill that was introduced Friday in the House that seeks to provide a one-time bailout of government obligations to the Fund by allowing eligible government employees to retire "will kill the Fund basically."

What was this bill? H.B. 16-201 introduced by Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider

Isn't this the same newspaper that OPPOSES Federalization JUST AS MUCH AS BEN AND ELOY?

Haven't we seen a number of stories about the negative impacts that relinquishing our ability to Self-Govern will have on the Commonwealth?

Despite remaining against Federalization this paper seems so blinded by ambition that they ignore their "favorite" politician's strong support for Federal Government Control.

It seems ironic that the very newspaper that promotes and supports Open and Transparent Government refuses to do the same when reporting!

We are not afraid of the truth and are proud to welcome all of the voters that supported not only us but also Joe Camacho, the 6 independent candidates that ran with him, Dr. David Borja and more than 60% of the Kumoi/Borja Campaign Executive Committee, as well as Republican Governor of Guam Felix Camacho and Republican Senator

Saipan Tribune, November 6, 2009

"They [administration] offered the 20 percent employer's contribution rate and they offered to continue paying the taxes, so we'll take it," Aguon told Saipan Tribune.

Saipan Tribune, July 1, 2009

Govendo said that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's administration did the right thing in replacing the defined benefit plan with the defined contribution plan.
"It stopped the bleeding and made it possible to ascertain how many retirees are left in the defined benefit plan, how long they and their spouses will live, and how much money will be needed to take care of them," he said.

Saipan Tribune, November 13, 2009

Former independent lieutenant governor candidate Joseph C. Camacho and key members of the Executive Committee to Elect Juan Pan and Joe Camacho threw their support behind Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos of the Covenant Party yesterday.
Other winning and losing independent candidates have also pledged support to the Covenant team. They include Rep.-elect Fred P. Deleon Guerrero, and Rep.-elect George N. Camacho. Former independent candidates Mike A. Camacho, Victoria T. Guerrero, and Rita C. Chong-Dela Cruz are also supporting the team.

Saipan Tribune, November 17, 2009

Dr. David Borja, is supporting Gov. Benigno R. Fitial of the Covenant Party in the Nov. 23 runoff elections.
Besides Borja, the other members of the committee who now support the Covenant team are: Rudy R. Sablan, overall chairman of the Committee to Elect Kumoi/Borja; Alvin Cruz, chairman of the Rota Committee to Elect Kumoi/Borja; Pete Deleon Guerrero Pangelinan, campaign manager; Angie S. Iba, special advisor; Delbert R. Sablan, logistics chairman; Cornelio T. Castro, site committee chairman; and Pete Castro, food preparation chairman

These endorsements and the public support of thousands of supporters from each of the Juan Pan/Joe Camacho, Kumoi/Borja, and even Hofschneider/Palacios campaigns, prove to us that, our Positive and Clean Campaign based on the facts is important to the voters.

Join the Team of thousands of Republicans, Independents, Democrats, and Covenant Party members that have already joined us and are making the "RIGHT" choice on November 23rd.

Vote BEN and ELOY

Proven Leadership + Proven Experience = Real Results

Covenant PARTY NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

www.beneloy.com

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT FITIAL-INOS

We are proud of our Clean and Positive Campaign
And also our success in keeping our Commonwealth Clean and Safe

PROVEN LEADERSHIP = REAL RESULTS

WE STATE JUST THE FACTS NOT DISTORTIONS[1]

Unexploded ordnance over time becomes more and more fragile and most importantly deadly. Stories abound worldwide about children dying every day while playing in open fields or hiking in the mountains where landmines and unexploded ordnance have been buried.

Early in my term, my administration recognized these dangers and successfully applied for U.S. Federal Grants from the Federal Brownsfield Program to help in the detection and eventual clearance of leftover munitions and unexploded ordnance from World War II.

Our proudest accomplishment was our actions in Marpi, where in 2009 we successfully excavated more than 10,000 pounds of unexploded ordnance.

We are thankful that none of our children were injured by these munitions and are also proud that this area is still open to all of our residents and tourists to **enjoy the beautiful views that remain safely untouched by development or homesteading[2]!**

We thank the employees of the CRM, DEQ, the Fish and Wildlife, and the Historic Preservation Office for their hard work in not only improving the safety of our residents with their actions in Marpi but also the other projects they have undertaken. We know we don't stand alone in our praise, as the CNMI Legislature has also praised their efforts as well. Below are some examples of other projects they have undertaken:

- Successfully negotiated a reasonable type of National Marine Monument
- Assisted in the capture and seizure of two foreign fishing vessels
- Produced Final version of the 'Northern Marianas Fisheries Act'
- Completed maintenance over-haul of Fisheries 27' boat
- Construction of Transient Dock for temporary berthing
- Initiated the Marianas Avifauna Conservation (MAC) Project
- Established Environmental Protection Task Force
- Successfully removed Nam Sung and Nago – abandoned boats in Rota and Saipan
- Dredged and Refurbished Sugar Dock
- Provided Bilge socks to boaters
- Revegetated Lau Lau Bay
- Eradication of sho-bai using stake outs to catch in the act
- Implemented the One Start Permit process
- Successfully re-implemented the Saipan Upland Mitigation Bank
- Routed contracts to obtain Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) replacement systems and buoys
- $1.6 million federal award for renovation of the Smiling Cove
- Coastal Reef Grants provided funding for Internship opportunities and the Rota Talakhaya Revegetation Project
- Refurbished and repaired the Tinian harbor
- Constructed the Tinian Marina
- Worked with Schools on education & outreach through the use of
- Primo the Fish and scientists
- Continuous removal of illegal boats and cars on shoreline
- Citizen outreach project to help in the beautifying of our Islands
- Max Aguon was praised by the Legislature for his work with CRM in cleaning our beaches

The Team of Ben and Eloy care deeply about the NMI and not only our people but also our environment

Join the thousands of Republicans, Independents, Democrats and Covenant Party members that are Making the "Right" Choice on November 23rd

Vote BEN and ELOY!

[1] Untrue political ad and statements made by our opponents over the last few days
[2] No homestead applications have been invited, filed, approved, or even wanted by this administration for the Marpi site

www.beneloy.com

Covenant PARTY NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT FITIAL-INOS

EVERY DAY MORE AND MORE VOTERS AND LEADERS ARE MAKING THE "RIGHT" CHOICE
REPUBLICANS, INDEPENDENTS, DEMOCRATS, AND COVENANT PARTY MEMBERS CLEARLY
BELIEVE THAT PROVEN LEADERSHIP + PROVEN EXPERIENCE = REAL RESULTS

MORE REPUBLICANS UNITED FOR BEN AND ELOY!

Fmr. Guam Gov. Calvo, Fmr. Guam Gov.Gutierrez, Gov. Felix Camacho

Congressman Joe Camacho and Dr. David Borja

Republican Senator Paul Manglona

MORE INDEPENDENTS UNITED FOR BEN AND ELOY!

The Team of BEN and ELOY are proud of the support we are receiving from voters from across the NMI

Make the "Right" choice on November 23rd

Vote BEN and ELOY

www.beneloy.com

Covenant PARTY NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT FITIAL-INOS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW GRADUATES

These Saipan students recently graduated with their bachelor's degree in Business Administration. The commencement was held Sunday, Nov. 15, 2009, at Sheraton Waikiki, Honolulu Hawai'i. From left, Annale' Sablan Torres, Priscilla Isa F. Maratita Iakopo, Maryann Borja-Arriola and Leilani Nichole Aldan Atalig. Not in picture are Paula C. Bermudes-Castro and Phillip B. Eusebio.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to our baby brother, Jesse "JJ" Pangelinan. We love and miss you and wish you all the love and joy on this day and always. Greetings come from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings to Peach, who is celebrating her 15th birthday! Greetings come from Mom, Dad, Nica, Ayana, and Vinnie Boy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 1st birthday to Louie Boy Reyes! We love you so much and wish you many more birthdays to come. Greetings coming out from Nommy, Daddy and big brother LJ Boy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Special birthday shoutout to Maria Quitugua! May the Lord continue to bless you with more wonderful years. You're the greatest, we love you! From the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

To my favorite DJ, Bonezy Bonez: Happy birthday and many more to come!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Another year of laughter and excitement and a lifetime of memories! Happy 8th birthday to Nathan P. Mingefiiy! We love you always and may God bless you on your very special day! Love, Mom, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, and the entire family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy, happy Birthday to Mrs. Ana Rekemesik! May the Lord continue to bless you today and always! Greetings coming from all your friends and family and most especially from all your coworkers at SJB Law Office! In the photo is her loving husband, Jason Rekemesik, and son K.J.

HEINZ & ARNOLD DECEIVED THE VOTERS

HA WANTS TO FOOL US AGAIN!

Tina Sablan, advocate for PEW and non-voting CNMI contract workers demanding U.S. residency, serves as mouthpiece for Heinz & Arnold because they have no platform, no plans and no solutions to offer the CNMI people. They chose to whine, cry, witch-hunt and criticize those who wanted to become part of the solution. Payday is coming from us, voters!

COMPARE

Has HA helped the Administration---		Heinz & Arnold		Ben & Eloy
SOLVE THE CUC CRISIS?		NO, HA ranted and created obstacles.		YES
SOLVE THE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES?		NO, HA asked 200 questions and criticized.		YES
PROTECT THE CNMI COVENANT?		NO, HA ran and became a federalist w/ Tina.		YES
PROTECT THE CNMI's ECONOMY?		NO, HA couldn't understand the economy.		YES
SOLVE THE RETIREMENT PROBLEM?		NO, HA kept silent and went into hiding.		YES
BRING IN FOREIGN INVESTMENT?		NO, HA threatened to sue the investors.		YES
BALANCED THE CNMI BUDGET?		NO, HA encouraged overspending.		YES
CREATE JOBS?		NO, HA couldn't figure out how.		YES
TAKE VOLUNTARY PAY CUTS?		NO, HA does not lead by example.		YES
PROVEN EXPERIENCE?		NO, HA is still learning.		YES
PROVEN LEADERSHIP?		NO, HA is still in training.		YES
PROVEN DRUG FREE?		NO, HA has no proof.		YES
BA IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION		NO		YES
55+ Yrs. of Combined Work Experience		NO, HA is still growing.		YES

Definition: HA = HEINZ AND ARNOLD OR HA'S REPUBLICAN MINIONS.

HA **Political Ploy did not materialize:** **(1)** Heinz & Arnold's handful of self-serving Republicans and sycophants proposed to Governor Ben Fitial to approve their House Bill to lower the CUC power rate during the mid-term election and promised to repeal the proposed Public Law after the mid-term election and return the CUC rate back to the true full-cost-recovery rate, or self-sustaining rate. Governor Fitial refused to agree. HA's self-serving ploy to deceive the consumers for political gain did not work. Honest Republicans, Democrats and Independents abhor such ploys. **(2) Tina Sablan** introduced H.B. 16-86 and **Heinz Hofschneider, Edward Salas and Victor Hocog** sponsored it. H.B. 16-86, **The Resident Foreign National Status Act of 2008,** would allow contract workers in the Commonwealth to become eligible for a residence status, including their immediate relatives. (Comments on H.B. 18-86 by Deputy Labor Secretary Cinta Kaipat, April 23, 2008.) House Bill 16-86 serves only the interests of foreign workers and offers no protection or compensating benefits for U.S. citizens of the Commonwealth. [Source: Comments on Bill, filed, dated April 23, 2008] **Payday next Monday!**

Ben & Eloy provided long-term and permanent solutions. ***Ben & Eloy*** did not criticized or played politics when solving CNMI problems. ***Ben & Eloy*** possess the education, proven experience and proven leadership abilities.

PLEASE VOTE FOR *Ben & Eloy*

Thank You Si Yu'us Ma'ase Olomwaay

Paid for by Republicans, Democrats and Independent Friends of Ben & Eloy for Clean Government.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-M/VA-022

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OPERATION OF GROUNDS, LANDSCAPE, TURF GRASS, ROADWAY AND STRUCTURE MAINTENANCE AT THE CNMI VETERANS CEMETERY"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. RUTH A. COLEMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR MILITARY/VETERANS AFFAIRS AT (670) 664-2650 AND IS DUE ON ***DECEMBER 10, 2009, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.***

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **RUTH A. COLEMAN**
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MILITARY/VETERANS AFFAIRS

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP2010-CDA-02

SUBMISSION: NOVEMBER 30, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FY2009 & 2010 FOR THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY"

COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, WAKIN'S BLDG., GUALO RAI, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FACSIMILE REQUEST TO 235-7147.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **MANUEL A. SABLAN**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

On November 23rd, CNMI Voters will have a Clear Choice! And it's the "Right" one!
The Team of Ben and Eloy are the only ones with Proven Experience

In an effort to assist in your decision we wanted to provide you with the differences between our Teams.

Our Opponents	Issue	Fitial/Inos
Missed several votes on the budget within the last few months. 16 years in the legislature and passed 1 (one) budget. Continually borrowed money from fellow legislators' office accounts to supplement his own staff	**Fiscal Responsibility**	Stopped Deficit spending and introduced balance budgeting. Sold government vehicles, curtailed car leases, cut unneeded government phone lines and cell phones. Slashed $83 million from Government Operating Expenses
Introduced H.B. 16-20, to kill the Retirement Fund by providing an unfunded government severance package rejected by the NMIRF Chairman Juan "Pan" Guerrero and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce	**Retirement Fund**	Stopped the actuarial accrued liability (unfunded liability) and saved $120 million in the first year alone after introducing the Defined Contribution Plan to the Retirement Fund
Opposed Aggreko, Killed privatization effort by passing unrealistic $250 million minimum selling requirement, passed law to charge below cost	**CUC**	Hired competent management, secured Aggreko engines and ended rolling power outages; rehabilitated CUC engines; provided stable monthly billing for all CUC customers
Supported Federalization and did not oppose restrictions on Chinese and Russian tourists, Failed to submit comments to DHS	**Federalization**	Supported local self-government, our Covenant, sued to protect our economy and maintain access to workers and investors
Wanted to allocate all cover over funds to general fund for spending instead of paying refunds & rebates to the taxpayers and private sector	**Tax Refund/Rebates and Cover Over Tax**	Secured $50 million in cover over funds and consistently paid tax refunds and rebates on time for the first time in years
Talked about importance of tourism	**Tourism**	Secured charter flights to Rota, increased Korea flights
16 years and NO new investments	**New Investments brought to CNMI**	Lao Lao Bay Development Rota Water Bottling Facility New Casino developments New shipyard facility
Talked about bringing in more federal funds	**Federal Investment/Grants**	Secured $96 million in ARRA fund awards
In 2005 Debate stated: "Students can't even put a sentence together" when justifying taking laptops away from the kids	**Education**	Secured more than $30 million in Stabilization funds, allocated CIP funds for GTC classrooms, Every Senior in high school will receive a laptop at the beginning School Year 2010-2011
Early 1980's Managed Shell Gas Station	**Private Sector Experience**	President, Bank of Saipan VP, Tan Holdings Corp. Special Consultant, L&T Corp President, Century Insurance President, CTSI President, Pacific Oriental

We trust you the voter to make the "Right" Choice on November 23rd.

Vote BEN & ELOY

Proven Leadership + Proven Experience = Real Results!

Covenant PARTY
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

www.beneloy.com

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT FITIAL-INOS

In this run-off,
OUR LIVES ARE ON THE LINE

Under four years of Governor Fitial, CHC has deteriorated. Today, it is 'AT THE CROSS-ROADS OF A TOTAL BREAKDOWN.'* *U.S. Department of Interior Report on healthcare conditions in insular areas.

• Only 3 ER doctors remain. ER doctors work up to 72 hours, almost twice the ER standard of a 36-hour workweek.

• The lab runs out of life-saving supplies like Troponin, a reagent necessary in diagnosing a heart attack, because the hospital hasn't paid its vendor.

• CHC runs out of "packed red blood cells" for transfusions and some suture materials — all basic needs in running an ER.

• "..We come here and we have no needed medical tools to make proper diagnosis"..."Do you know how many pulmonary emboli that we missed here? We can't make the diagnosis — a very simple diagnosis of a very deadly disease process," — former CHC director of Emergency Medicine Edward Cornett.

• No lab director. No nephrologist (kidney doctor). Low blood supply. Long waiting lines at CHC. HAD ENOUGH???

WHILE CHC CAN'T AFFORD BASIC LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, GOVERNOR FITIAL CONTINUES TO HIRE NON-ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES.

WHERE ARE GOVERNOR FITIAL'S PRIORITIES???

Heinz and Arnold will forge partnerships with world-renown medical centers while addressing the special health care needs of our community.

VOTE FOR HEINZ AND ARNOLD

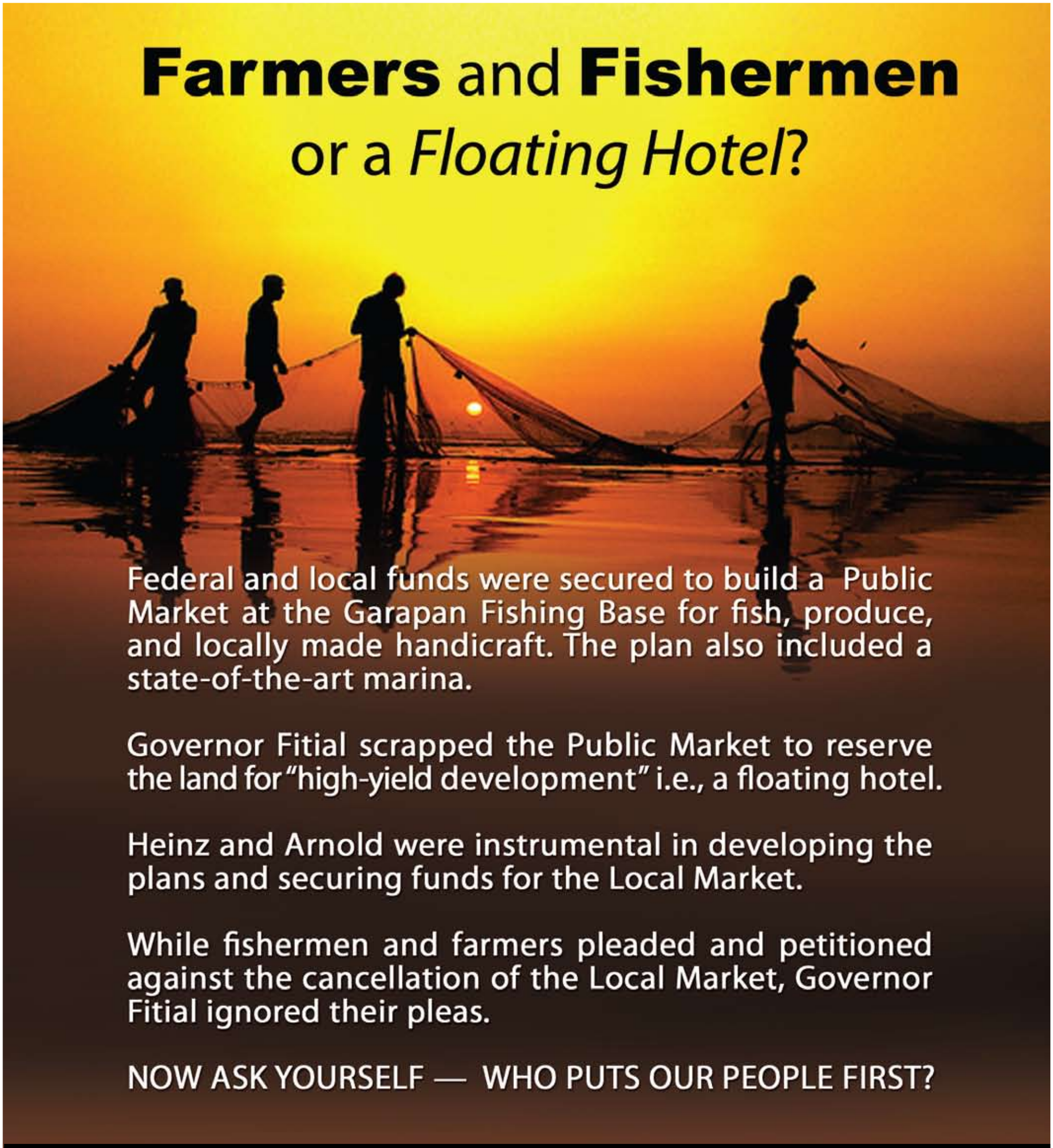
in the Gubernatorial Runoff Election on November 23rd, 2009

www.heinzarnold2009.com

Please Vote Republican

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Hofschneider - Palacios

Farmers and **Fishermen** or a *Floating Hotel*?



Federal and local funds were secured to build a Public Market at the Garapan Fishing Base for fish, produce, and locally made handicraft. The plan also included a state-of-the-art marina.

Governor Fitial scrapped the Public Market to reserve the land for "high-yield development" i.e., a floating hotel.

Heinz and Arnold were instrumental in developing the plans and securing funds for the Local Market.

While fishermen and farmers pleaded and petitioned against the cancellation of the Local Market, Governor Fitial ignored their pleas.

NOW ASK YOURSELF — WHO PUTS OUR PEOPLE FIRST?

VOTE FOR HEINZ AND ARNOLD
in the Gubernatorial Runoff Election on November 23rd, 2009

www.heinzarnold2009.com

Please Vote Republican

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Hofschneider - Palacios

Democrats for Heinz & Arnold

Jesse Torres
Democrat Chairman

Dr. Carlos S. Camacho
1st Elected CNMI Governor

Angelo Villagomez
Environmentalist &
2009 Democrat Mayoral Candidate

Hafa Adai and Tirow Marianas,

We ask all democrats and independents to vote for cHAnge. The current administration has already had their chance. For 4 years, Fitial has had the chance to create new jobs and new industries. He has had the chance to create reliable healthcare, utilities, and public safety. He has failed us. He has ruined our economy and hurt our relationship with the US. He has created a mass exodus of NMI residents. It is time to give another candidate a cHAnce. We simply can't survive another 5 years of a misleading governor. Please vote for cHAnge.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Olomwaay,
Jesse Torres and Carlos Camacho

Hafa Adai yan Tirow Marianas,

Out of respect for my supporters that may have supported other candidates I was going to remain neutral in the gubernatorial election, but too much is at stake during this juncture in our history and now is not the time to remain silent.

The two candidates left standing from the general election, Ben Fitial and Heinz Hofschneider, are both good men. They have collectively served this community for nearly half a century and I believe it is the intention of both men to do what is right for our people.

However, an election, as I recently learned first hand, can only have one winner. The voters of the Commonwealth must choose between these two long time public servants and decide who will be our head of state for the next five years.

I am voting for Heinz Hofschneider in the gubernatorial runoff election. I fully endorse his candidacy and ask that you vote for him on November 23.

While Ben Fitial has been a supporter of Beautify CNMI, a campaign I hold very close to my heart, I cannot in good conscience vote for the man that refused to meet with concerned citizens for nearly two years concerning another very important issue, ocean conservation.

Instead of meeting with us to hear what we had to say, instead of engaging us to understand our intentions, instead of hearing our pleas to just listen, he ordered his administration to carry out a campaign appealing to the worst side of our local people. And this was not the only island issue in which he did this. And we were not the only targets of his vindictiveness.

My experience with Heinz Hofschneider was the reverse. He took the time to listen to us. He made a point to educate himself on the subject. He sought out experts that knew more about the subject than himself. And after careful consideration he made his decision.

Heinz is the type of man I want leading our people. I humbly ask you to support his bid as our next governor.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase,
Angelo Villagomez

VOTE FOR HEINZ AND ARNOLD
in the Gubernatorial Runoff Election on November 23rd, 2009

www.heinzarnold2009.com

Please Vote Republican

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Hofschneider - Palacios

Together We Win

As the CNMI faces the opportunities and challenges of federalization, the military build-up on Guam, and the globalized economy, now, more than ever, we need real leadership.

We need trustworthy leaders who will bring stability to our economy by following and enforcing the rules on the books.

We need proactive leaders who will lead with planning and foresight, rather than react with one emergency declaration after another.

We need reliable leaders who will make appointments based on competency, not on politics.

We need positive leaders who will work with the federal government, not against it.

We need responsible leaders who will prioritize health, education, and public safety over sole-source contracts, soccer fields, and political promotions.

We need caring leaders who will lead with compassion and integrity, not with bullying and intimidation.

We need real leaders who will serve the common good, not special interests.

The past four years have proven one thing and one thing only: it's time for the real leaders to stand up.

On November 23rd, we humbly ask that you stand up for real leadership and vote for Heinz Hofschneider and Arnold Palacios for Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Nothing short of our future is at stake.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay, and Thank you.

Juan & Galvin

Galvin Deleon Guerrero

Juan N. Babauta
Former Governor

VOTE FOR HEINZ AND ARNOLD
in the Gubernatorial Runoff Election on November 23rd, 2009

www.heinzarnold2009.com

Please Vote Republican

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Hofschneider - Palacios

Our village streets are dark because there are no streetlights. There is no money to buy new streetlights, or traffic lights or pedestrian lights. No lights.

Our homes are burglarized, our property stolen, and our privacy violated, encouraged by a general sense of lawlessness in our islands.

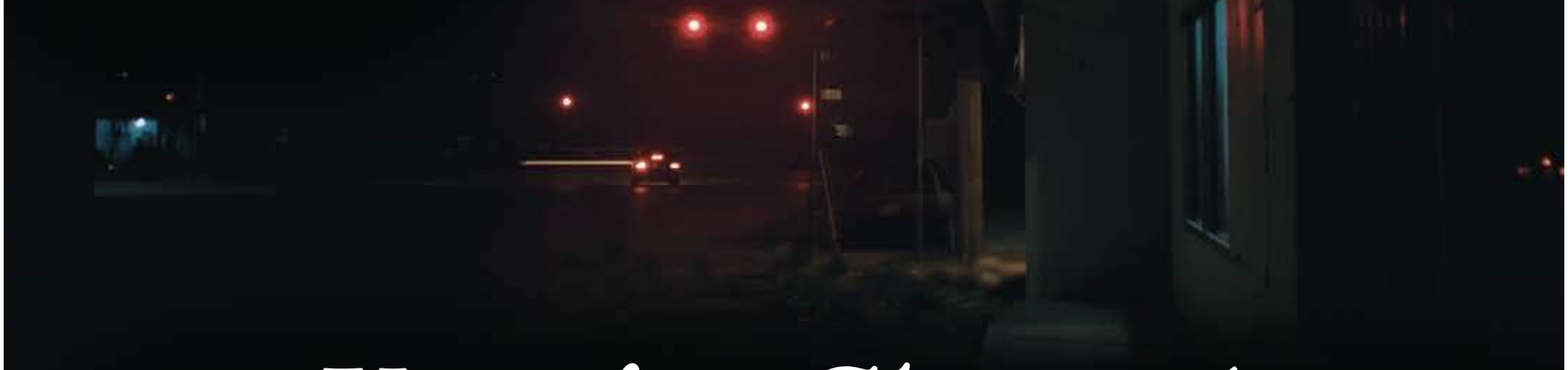
Our police force work hard to protect us, but morale is low, promotions and raises are given without merit, and hiring of untrained, unschooled personnel continues.

Morale at the Department of Public Safety is low.

Can your family truly afford four more years of the Fitial Administration?

Heinz Hofschneider and Arnold Palacios believe that people must have trust in their government and their leaders and that this is essential to providing security in our islands.

Hofschneider and Palacios will work hard to restore public confidence in the government and its leaders, bring stability back to our community by growing the economy, enforcing the Commonwealth's laws, and ensuring that the public's interest comes first. It is only in this way that order and stability will be restored.



Vote for Change!

Vote for Heinz S. Hofschneider and Arnold I. Palacios

In the election on November 23, 2009

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Hofschneider-Palacios

Fitial wants Retirement Fund to write off gov't debt, finance CUC bond

By Gemma Q. Casas
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Benigno R. Fitial wants the Legislature to pass measures that will require the Retirement Fund to write-off the government's $123.6 million in unpaid employer contributions to the agency and release $40 million of its assets to finance a proposed revenue bond for the Com-

Senate President Joseph M. Mendiola, Covenant-Tinian, the governor said the CNMI is "facing an unsustainable economic emergency."

"I regret to say that the nature and extent of these financial problems are such that there is no simple or painless solution. Current analysis indicates that the...Retirement Fund has an un-

infusion of a minimum of $40 million just to maintain basic utility operations," Fitial said.

The governor said the solution lies in the passage of the following measures: his proposed fiscal year 2007 budget; the Defined Benefit Plan Rescue and Reform Act of 2006; and the Defined Contribution Act of 2006.

According to the still unnum-

It took Governor Fitial some time to figure out that the government owed the Retirement Fund $123 million. Then he wanted the debt written-off, and worse, to borrow money from the fund and increase a debt he already wasn't handling.

In 2007, Governor Fitial suspended two years worth of payments the Retirement Fund resulting in an additional $52 million debt.

At the same time, the Fitial administration introduced the Defined Contribution Plan DC which is more sustainable only because it provides greatly reduced benefits, but it shorted all current retirees and the thousands of CNMI workers who haven't joined that plan.

Today, the Fitial administration owes $230 million to the Fund and he has barely paid in a penny. The Fitial administration is directly responsible for HALF of this obligation. **It happened on his watch.**

Over 4,000 individuals rely on their Retirement Fund pensions for survival, and the overwhelmingly majority of them spend their checks on local economy.

Someone's mother, someone's father, somebody's spouse, your grandparents, maybe an aunt or an uncle—people you know are directly affected by what this governor has done or not done.

Does his poor record of payment to the Retirement Fund show a commitment to your family's future well-bring? Are you ready to provide long term support on those family members whose pensions are in doubt?

Governor Fitial's administration prefers inaction. No payment to the Fund, no commitment to address the problem, **only a vague reference to the need to replace the current plan with some other plan.**

If Governor Fitial is re-elected, CNMI retirees and government workers will face a dying Retirement Fund.

Is this what <u>you</u> want?

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Hofschneider–Palacios

Business

Jobless benefits could end for many in January

WASHINGTON (AP)—More than 1 million people will run out of unemployment benefits in January unless Congress quickly extends federal emergency aid, a nonprofit group said Wednesday.

States typically provide 26 weeks of unemployment insurance for those who lose their jobs through no fault of their own, with weekly checks averaging about $300. Congress on Nov. 6 extended coverage for the fourth time since the recession began, granting 14 to 20 more weeks to try to keep about 1.3 million people who have been jobless for well over a year from running out of benefits before the end of 2009.

That boosted the total number of weeks a person could collect unemployment to as much as 99 in the hardest-hit states. But that legislation didn't address an underlying problem: The emergency unemployment compensation program, including all 73 additional weeks, expires at the end of this year.

If the program isn't renewed, after Jan. 1 recipients who have used up their 26 weeks of state benefits won't get any extra coverage. The National Employment Law Project estimated Wednesday that 450,000 people will fall into that category in January.

An additional 600,000 will run out of extended coverage that month, the NELP estimates. Since the extra federal benefits are provided in stages, recipients won't be able to continue to the next one after Jan. 1, unless the emergency program is reinstated.

Under the most recent extension, all states received 14 extra weeks. States with unemployment rates of 8.5 percent or above received six more weeks on top of that—20 in total. But a group of state agencies that administer the benefits noted this week that few, if any, recipients will be able to access those additional six weeks if the program ends Dec. 31.

Obama to push private sector to hire at forum

BEIJING (AP)—President Barack Obama says creating jobs isn't the goal of a coming White House forum on jobs and economic growth.

Obama

But the president told NBC News on Wednesday that the purpose of the Dec. 3 summit is to figure out how to encourage hiring by businesses still reluctant to do so.

The U.S. unemployment rate hit 10.2 percent last month, the highest in decades. Before departing on his trip through Asia, Obama said the high jobless rate is one of the biggest challenges for an economy that has begun to show signs of recovery.

Obama told NBC that the forum will give him and other administration officials a chance to talk to CEOs, small-business owners and other experts to find out what's going on.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China Commercial Aircraft plans plant in Shanghai

SHANGHAI (AP)—Commercial Aircraft Corp. of China plans to build an assembly line for its homegrown C919 jetliners in Shanghai, the latest step in the country's ambitions to become a leader in world aviation. The company announced the showcase project following a signing ceremony Wednesday with officials of Shanghai's Pudong district, where the plant will be located. China is counting on the narrow-body, single-aisle C919, China's newest and biggest homegrown commercial jetliner, to compete against Western rivals in the high-stakes international aviation market.

Oil stays above $79 amid mixed economic signs

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Oil prices hovered above $79 a barrel Thursday in Asia amid mixed signals over the strength of the global economic recovery. Benchmark crude for December delivery was down 18 cents to $79.40 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 44 cents to settle at $79.58 on Wednesday. Prices were underpinned by U.S. data showing lower crude inventories last week and auto club AAA reporting that more drivers are expected on America's highways over the upcoming Thanksgiving weekend, suggesting that consumers are more confident in the economy.

Hershey, Ferrero considering rival bid for Cadbury

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—Hershey, hoping to expand its overseas presence, has lined up a potential partner as the most recognizable name in American chocolate considers starting a bidding war for British candy maker Cadbury PLC. Italian candymaker Ferrero International SA could give The Hershey Co. the financial firepower to top a $16.4 billion hostile bid by Kraft Foods Inc. Hershey and Ferrero said Wednesday they are considering a possible offer for Cadbury.

SAIPAN COOL WATER INC.
P.O. Box 504466 Saipan MP 96950 • Tel. No. 235-2665 (cool) • 235-0893

NOTICE OF CONCERNS

This is to inform the General Public that Saipan Cool Water & Ice. Inc. is now under new Management, that any financial liability or any other concerns that you may have with our company is giving you one month effective November 13, 2009 until December 13, 2009 to please visit our main office located at Kannat Tabla or call 235-2665 for the settlement of all concern.

Any concerns reported after the said date will not be entertained by the new Management.

Thank you very much for your cooperation and understanding. And its been a pleasure doing business with you.

Respectfully Yours,

/s/ Kim, Kyonam
President, Saipan Cool Water & Ice Inc.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-DPS-021 (1-7)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 16, 2009 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF TEN (10) PANASONIC TOUGHBOOKS 30 MAG™ TO INCLUDE MOUNTING HARDWARES AND ANTENNAS - CISF - SAIPAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **SANTIAGO F. TUDELA**
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

Nation

Reid sets markers for historic health care debate

WASHINGTON (AP)—Setting up a historic year-end health care debate, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid unveiled long-awaited legislation Wednesday night to extend coverage to all but 6 percent of eligible Americans and bar private industry from denying insurance because of pre-existing medical conditions.

The Democrat's $849 billion measure is designed to remake the nation's health care system, relying on cuts in future Medicare spending to cover costs—as well as on higher payroll taxes for the well-to-do and a new levy on patients undergoing elective cosmetic surgery.

AP

Senate Majority Leader Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., with Sens. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, left, and Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., leaves a news conference on Capitol Hill, Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2009 in Washington.

Aides said the mammoth, 2,074-page bill would reduce deficits by $127 billion over a decade and by as much as $650 billion in the 10 years that follow, citing as-yet-unreleased estimates by the Congressional Budget Office.

"Tonight begins the last leg of this journey," said Nevada Sen. Reid, less than two weeks after the House approved its version of a sweeping remake of the health care system- and nearly 10 months after President Barack Obama's Inauguration Day summons to action.

Police: Mo. teen dug grave anticipating murder

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP)—Blessed with a Friday off school, 15-year-old Alyssa Bustamante dug two holes in the ground to be used as a grave, authorities said. For the next week, she attended classes, all the while plotting the right time for a murder, they said.

That time arrived the evening of Oct. 21, when Bustamante strangled 9-year-old neighbor Elizabeth Olten without provocation, cut the girl's throat and stabbed her, prosecutors said. Why?

"Ultimately, she stated she wanted to know what it felt like," Missouri State Highway Patrol Sgt. David Rice testified Wednesday during a court hearing over the slaying.

AP

This picture provided on Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2009 by the Cole County Sheriff's Department shows Alyssa Bustamante.

Rice, who interviewed Bustamante in the days after Elizabeth's disappearance, said she confessed to investigators and led them to the fourth grader's well-concealed body in a wooded area near their neighborhood in St. Martins, a small town west of Jefferson City.

A Cole County judge ruled Wednesday that Bustamante, who has been held in Missouri's juvenile justice system, should be tried as an adult. Hours later, the teen was indicted on adult charges of first-degree murder and armed criminal action for allegedly using a knife to kill Elizabeth. A judge later entered a not guilty plea on Bustamante's behalf and referred her to the public defender's office.

ACROSS THE NATION

Judge: Corps' negligence caused Katrina flooding

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A federal judge ruled Wednesday that the Army Corps of Engineers' failure to properly maintain a navigation channel led to massive flooding in Hurricane Katrina, a decision that could make the federal government vulnerable to billions of dollars in claims. U.S. District Judge Stanwood Duval sided with six residents and one business who argued the Army Corps' shoddy oversight of the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet led to the flooding of New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward and neighboring St. Bernard Parish. He said, however, the corps couldn't be held liable for the flooding of eastern New Orleans, where two of the plaintiffs lived. Duval awarded the plaintiffs $720,000, but the government could eventually be forced to pay much more in damages. The ruling should give more than 100,000 other individuals, businesses and government entities a better shot at claiming billions of dollars in damages.

AP source: Ex-official to head Fort Hood review

WASHINGTON (AP)—Defense Secretary Robert Gates has tapped a former senior defense official to lead a broad Pentagon review of the circumstances surrounding the Fort Hood shootings, The Associated Press has learned. Gates will announce Thursday that it will be a single, coordinated review, and will call for a quick, short-term report, followed by a longer, more extensive study, according to an administration official. Components of the wide-ranging probe could include self-examinations by the Army and the military's medical community, and likely look at personnel policies and the availability of mental health services for troubled troops. It would go well beyond the specific case of Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, the Army psychiatrist accused of killing 13 people and wounding more than 30 in the shootings at the Texas military post on Nov. 5.

Obama, Holder predict conviction in 9/11 case

WASHINGTON (AP)—From opposite ends of the globe, President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder firmly rejected criticism Wednesday of the planned New York trial of the professed Sept. 11 mastermind and predicted Khalid Sheikh Mohammed would be exposed as a murderous coward, convicted and executed.

"Failure is not an option," Holder declared.

The president, in a series of TV interviews during his trip to Asia, said those offended by the legal rights accorded Mohammed by virtue of his facing a civilian trial rather than a military tribunal won't find it "offensive at all when he's convicted and when the death penalty is applied to him."

Obama, who is a lawyer, quickly added that he did not mean to suggest he was prejudging the outcome of Mohammed's trial. "I'm not going to be in that courtroom," he said. "That's the job of the prosecutors, the judge and the jury."

JANICE JOAQUIN DIMLA
Mailex 16, P.O. Box 10005
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 235-2478

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JANICE JOAQUIN DIMLA, Petitioner, v. **ERNESTO LUMBOY DIMLA JR.,** Respondent.	**FCD-DI Civil Action No. 09-0440** **ORDER TO APPEAR OR PLEAD**

UPON CONSIDERATION OF THE MOTION by the Petitioner of an Order of this Court requiring the Respondent to answer or otherwise plead herein and permitting services to be made by publication under 7 CMC § 1301 and 1302:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the Respondent shall be served by publication.

The Respondent is further ordered to answer the Petition or otherwise plead in this action within thirty (30) days of the date of the publication of this Order. If Respondent fails to answer, respond or otherwise plead as ordered herein, Judgment by Default may be entered against Respondent.

This Order shall also be posted on the public board at the Clerk's Office for a period of not less than two weeks.

ENTERED this 14th day of August, 2009.

/s/ **KENNETH L. GOVENDO**
Associate Judge

MARK A. SCOGGINS
LAW OFFICE OF F. MATTHEW SMITH, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127
Saipan, MP 96950-1127
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/7427
Fascimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorney for Petitioners.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Adoption of IVAN LEE DANIEL, a male minor child. By: LEE IVAN BOWEN and KATHLEEN BOWEN Petitioners.	FCD Adoption Action No. 09-0640 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that a verified petition was filed in the above-entitled court for the petition for adoption of Ivan Lee Daniel, by the petitioners. The original petition is available for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court as Susupe, Saipan.

A hearing of the above-entitled matter will be held on **January 11, 2010, at 1:30 p.m.** at the Guma Hustisia, Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 10th day of November, 2009.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Omar P. Calimbas, F0336
Micronesian Legal Services Corporation
Marianas Office
P.O. Box 500826
Saipan, MP 96950-0826
Tel. Nos. 234-6243/7729
Fax No. 235-6101
ocalimbas@mlscnet.org

Attorneys for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

RUZEL GONGORA COLLADA, Plaintiff, v. **AMPARO ENCINAS COLLADA,** Defendant.	**FCD-DI Civil Action No. 09-0649** **ORDER TO APPEAR OR PLEAD**

Upon consideration of Plaintiff's Ex-Parte Motion and Declaration for an Order to Appear or Plead in this divorce proceeding, and pursuant to 7 CMC § 1301, and with good cause appearing, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. Defendant Amparo Encinas Collada shall appear or plead in response to the Complaint for Divorce; and

2. Plaintiff shall serve Defendant via mail, return receipt requested, with the Summons and Complaint for Divorce and this Order to Appear or Plead to Defendant's last know address as stated in the Declaration; by publishing in a newspaper published in the Commonwealth at least once/ and by posting this Order to Appear or Plead in one conspicuous place within the Commonwealth, for a period of not less than two weeks.

Dated this 16th day of November, 2009.

/s/ Kenneth L. Govendo
Associate Judge

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-025

"REVIEW OF STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS FOR THE CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM"

The CNMI Public School System (PSS) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the procurement of a **REVIEW OF STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS FOR THE CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**. The Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

Proposals should be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"PSS RFP # 09-025"** containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and be submitted to the Procurement and Supply Office no later than Friday, December 4, 2009 at 3:00 P.M. Any proposal received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Tim Thornburgh, Federal Program Officer at fax # (670) 664-3797 or email to **thornburght@pss.cnmi.mp**. Questions must be submitted no later than Tuesday, November 24, 2009.

Proposers are requested to submit a copy of their CNMI Business License with their proposal.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

World

Obama says talks under way on Iran sanctions

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—President Barack Obama said Thursday the United States has begun talking with allies about fresh punishment against Iran for defying efforts to halt its nuclear weapons pursuits.

Obama

Obama's tough talk came as Iran indicated it would not ship its low-enriched uranium to Russia for processing, the centerpiece of deal aimed at a peaceful resolution to Iran's contested nuclear program.

"They have been unable to get to `yes', and so as a consequence, we have begun discussions with our international partners about the importance of having consequences," Obama said in a brief news conference with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak.

Obama said a new package of punitive steps will likely be developed "over the next several weeks." He did not get more specific about the nature of any new sanctions, which would require commitments of international support that are hardly clear yet.

Standing side by side, Obama and Lee signaled impatience over another nuclear threat, North Korea. They both declared fresh, united steps in getting that nation to give up its own nuclear weapons.

Lee said Obama had rallied behind his idea for a one-time "grand bargain" with North Korea of aid and concessions in exchange for de-nuclearization, rather than the stalled step-by-step process. And Obama said his envoy would travel to North Korea early next month for the first bilateral talks with the communist government since he took office.

The South Korea stop was the final dash of diplomacy for Obama on a weeklong Asia trip, and although he and Lee trumpeted the strength of their nations' alliance, a stalled trade deal continues to vex them.

The ambitious South Korean-U.S. pact has bogged down over U.S. lawmakers' worries it could hurt the struggling American auto industry.

Differences on the trade matter between Obama and Lee, though muted, were on display.

Iraq vote faces likely delay

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's path toward political stability after years of war threatened to veer off course Wednesday when a vice president vetoed part of a key election law, a move likely to delay a national vote slated for January.

The United States has linked the pace of its military drawdown to the vote, but the top U.S. commander in Iraq told reporters the schedule was on track for now. All American troops are supposed to leave by the end of 2011, and the prospect of a delay could burden the White House as it ponders a bigger military deployment in Afghanistan.

The veto by Iraq's Sunni Arab vice president also exposed sectarian divisions that reached heights of fury in 2006 and 2007, when Shiite and Sunni Arab militants turned much of Iraq into a slaughterhouse. A return to such levels of violence is unlikely, but deep mistrust has slowed political reconciliation.

Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi sent part of the law back to parliament, 10 days after lawmakers ended weeks of haggling and approved it to the relief of Washington. He said it should be amended to allocate more seats to Iraqis abroad, most of whom are Sunni Arabs who fled the war.

The U.N. estimates that as of January there were around 2 million Iraqi refugees in neighboring Jordan and Syria, and some 2.6 million people displaced within Iraq. The total population is at least 27 million.

Troubled Afghan president readies inaugural speech

KABUL (AP)—Under intense pressure to fix his corrupt government, Afghan President Hamid Karzai was expected to strike a balance in his second inaugural speech Thursday: answer international demands for reform while appeasing political allies who returned him to power.

Karzai begins a second term facing an increasingly violent insurgency, an administration crippled by corruption, high unemployment and an impoverished population frustrated by eight years of war and few, if any, improvements to their daily lives.

Having come to his second term out of a fraud-tainted election that undermined his credibility with Western powers, Karzai is being watched particularly closely Thursday. His address could begin to heal wounds or to further alienate the international community.

An official familiar with a draft of the speech said Karzai would not pepper his address with rhetoric criticizing the international community. Still, Karzai is likely to wag his finger at foreign donors, as he has done before, for allowing millions of dollars to be skimmed from aid contracts before Afghans ever see the assistance. The official, who requested anonymity to avoid upstaging the president, said Karzai would repeat his demand for assistance to be funneled through the Afghan government as opposed to international organizations.

WORLD BRIEFS

US ship repels pirates with guns and sound blasts

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Guards aboard the Maersk Alabama used guns and a sound blaster Wednesday to repel the second pirate attack in seven months on the U.S. vessel at a time when ships are increasingly hiring armed security teams to thwart hijackings. Despite an increased international flotilla of warships off the Horn of Africa, maritime figures indicate the number of ship boardings has remained about the same in the past year. A U.S. naval commander hailed the ship's new defenses and family members rejoiced at the Maersk Alabama's escape this time around, but the handling of the attack highlights a growing schism over use of arms on commercial vessels.

Israeli aircraft hit Gaza after rocket attacks

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Israeli military says its aircraft have struck a weapons-manufacturing facility and two smuggling tunnels in the southern Gaza Strip. The military says Thursday's airstrikes were in response to recent rocket attacks on Israel. No injuries were reported in the Israeli attacks or from the rocket fire. Israel went to war against Gaza militants last winter to quash eight years of rocket and mortar fire. The attacks have decreased sharply. But Israel says weapons and weapons-making components still reach militants through tunnels under Gaza's border with Egypt.

Doctor says 16 killed in bombing in NW Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A doctor says 16 people have been killed in an explosion outside a courthouse in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar. The blast Thursday was the latest in wave to hit the city in recent weeks in apparent retaliation for an army offensive against the Taliban in the nearby Afghan border region. The doctors, Saib Gul, says 16 bodies and 26 wounded people have been taken to the city's Lady Reading Hospital.

Bangladesh court upholds death sentences for coup

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—The Supreme Court rejected final appeals Thursday by five former soldiers sentenced to death in the 1975 killing of Bangladesh's independence leader in a military coup, a government attorney said. A five-member jury dismissed the men's plea to commute the penalty in a packed courtroom in capital Dhaka, attorney Anisul Haq said. "The nation has got justice," Haq told reporters. "We had to travel a long way to come to this." The five convicted men were in Dhaka Central Jail when the jury dismissed their appeals. They can now petition the country's president for clemency in their last bid for life.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

MARIANO LARAOL NEKAIFES

Also Lovingly Known as "Uncle Manu"

Born to life on February 21, 1954
Born to eternal life on November 13, 2009

His memory will forever live on the lives of his:

Wife: Juliana DeGuzman Nekaifes

Children & Spouse:
Michael Iguel/Evangeline Fitial & Children
Lorraine I./Hector Venus
Step-daughter: Arlene DeGuzman
Brothers, Sisters & In-Laws:
Children of †**Victor L.**/†Juana S. Romolor
Aquina N./†John Kaniki & Children
†**Lisa Marie N.**/**Manny** Fitial & Children
Children of †**Marcelina N.**/†Manuel O. Somorang
Margarita N./†Andres Igisaiar & Children
Jose L./Aunty Kay Nekaifes & Children
John L./Melitona S. Nekaifes & Children

He now joins his:

Mother: †Agness Olaitiman Laraol
Father : †Jose Nekaifes

Brothers, Sisters & In-Laws:
†Gregorio L. Romolor
†**Victor L.**/†Juana S. Romolor
†**Lisa Marie N. Fitial**
†**Marcelina N.**/†Manuel O. Somorang

On Saturday, November 21, 2009 at 7:00 am his remains will be escorted from CHC Morgue to Mount Carmel Cathedral for viewing and last respects.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am followed by internment service at Mount Carmel Cemeteray.

Your prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank You, Siyu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay, Salamat Po.

Wife & Family

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Eufracinia G. Bacani

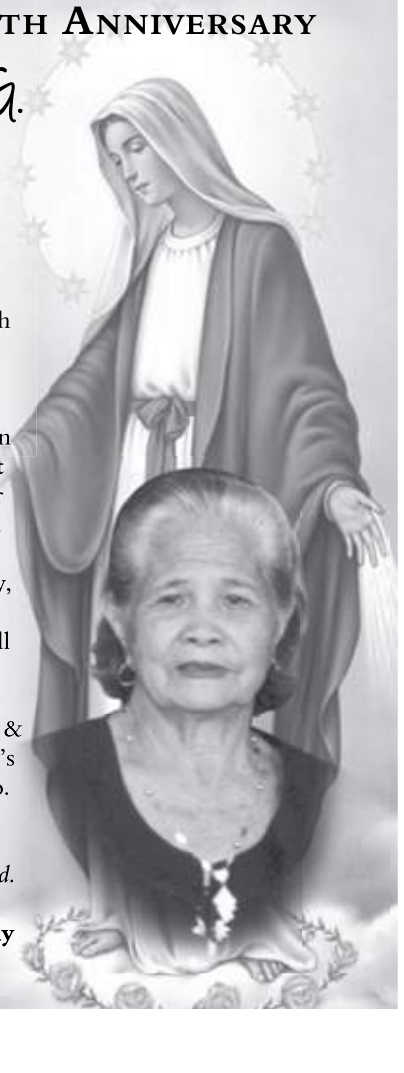
Known as "Lola"
November 24, 2009

Daily Masses are being offered at St. Jude Church on November 16 to 20, Monday to Friday at 6:00pm, November 21, Saturday at 7:00am and on Sunday, November 22 at 8:00am. And November 23, Monday on 6:00 pm.

On the final day, Tuesday, November 24, 2009, Eucharist Celebration will be at 6:00pm at St. Jude church followed by appreciation dinner at Mr. & Mrs. Nick & Dolly Muna's Residence in Chalan Piao.

Your thoughts, prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

Muna & Cabrera Family
Bacani Family



Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Miss. toddler, 2, helps mom give birth to brother

OLIVE BRANCH, Miss. (AP)—A 2-year-old in north Mississippi has done something few toddlers can: He helped his mother give birth to his brother. Bobbye Favazza told The Commercial Appeal she went into labor this past Friday and gave birth on the family's living room couch in Olive Branch. She said her toddler, Jeremiha Taylor, got her a towel and caught the baby before firefighters arrived to cut the umbilical cord. Favazza gave birth to a 7-pound, 4-ounce baby boy, Kamron Taylor. She had been scheduled for a cesarian section on Dec. 6. City emergency services supervisor, Greg Mynatt, said the 911 call about Favazza was probably the third this year about a woman in labor, but usually the mother makes it to the hospital before delivery.

'Captain America' wins rock-paper-scissors title

TAYLOR, Mich. (AP)—A Michigan man has won the world Rock Paper Scissors championship in Toronto. Tim Conrad clinched the title after five hours of play and nine matches at the Steam Whistle Brewery on Saturday night. Facing off against his best friend in the first all-American final in championship history, Conrad beat Tom Butkin with paper covering rock. Organizers say Conrad dressed as Captain America during the competition to honor his home country. Conrad takes home $7,000 in prize money. The championship was organized by the World RPS Society.

FBI seeks 'Geezer Bandit' in Calif. bank robberies

SAN DIEGO (AP)—FBI officials say an elderly, thin, gray-haired man nicknamed the "Geezer Bandit" is responsible for holding up five San Diego-area banks since summer. Investigators say the man appears to be in his 70s. Officials say that in the most recent robbery Monday, he approached a Bank of America teller in La Jolla, displayed a handgun and asked for cash. He fled on foot. FBI spokesman Darrell Foxworth says investigators believe the man is also responsible for robbing four other San Diego County banks since August 28. Law enforcement officials are offering $16,000 in rewards for information that leads to his arrest and conviction.

Udder shock: SC woman finds 650-pound cow in pool

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (AP)—Call it udder shock. A South Carolina woman who heard a giant splash in her backyard discovered a 650-pound cow had fallen into her swimming pool. WSPA-TV reports that the cow fell into Kathy Wydareny's covered pool on Monday night. The Anderson resident says the cow belonged to her neighbor. Wydareny was startled by a "giant whoosh" and took a flashlight out to investigate. She called 911 after spotting the cow. It took five men from the county rescue team to free the cow using a sling. Wydareny believes the cow got loose and just kept walking, thinking the pool cover was solid ground. The cow is doing well. Wydareny hopes her homeowner's insurance will cover the damage to her pool.

It's a boy: Zoo tortoise reveals mistaken identity

CLEVELAND (AP)—A tortoise's zookeepers in Cleveland are the ones feeling slow because after more than 50 years, they've discovered "Mary" is actually a male. Officials at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo say it can be tough to establish the sex of a giant Aldabra tortoise because the reproductive organs normally aren't visible. But Mary's maleness was unexpectedly revealed earlier this month during a routine exam. Spokesman Tom O'Konowitz said Wednesday that the zoo has decided to rename the tortoise Terry. When the 400-pound reptile arrived at the zoo in 1955, it was assumed he was a she because of a flatter shell, shorter tail and all-around smaller size than most males. The tortoise is estimated to be between 75 and 100 years old.

Couple arrested after reporting stolen marijuana

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—A man and woman who reported to police that robbers stole their marijuana are now facing charges themselves. The 32-year-old man and 29-year-old woman told police five armed men came to their Wichita apartment late Monday night and took marijuana. Police said one suspect accidentally fired his gun and spooked the other suspects. They ran from the apartment to a white Cadillac, dropping marijuana along the way. Police found more marijuana inside the apartment. The couple were booked on suspicion of various drug charges, including selling drugs within 1,000 feet of a school.

Police: Mail carrier found drunk, eating noodles

MARION, Iowa (AP)—Police in Marion and postal authorities are investigating the case of a mail carrier who was allegedly found drunk inside a residence while on the job. Police said the postal worker, 46, was charged with public intoxication Nov. 3 after she was found sitting on the kitchen floor of 95-year-old woman's house, eating leftover noodles from her refrigerator. Police Lt. Steve Etzel said Tuesday that the woman apparently entered the home through an unlocked front door. He said she was in uniform and had mail and a mail-carrying bag with her. The woman, a 17-year employee of the U.S. Postal Service, was taken to the Linn County Jail. Marion Postmaster Rick Leyendecker said the woman is currently on unpaid leave.

Legal Notice

If You Paid for Zetia® or Vytorin®

You May Be Able to Get Money Back

A Settlement has been proposed in a class action lawsuit involving Zetia® and Vytorin®. The lawsuit claims that Zetia® and Vytorin® were marketed as being more effective than other anti-cholesterol drugs and were sold at higher prices when, in fact, they were not more effective. The defendants deny any wrongdoing.

The lawsuit is called *In re Vytorin/Zetia Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation*, is pending in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey.

Who Is Included?

Consumers who paid for any portion of the price for Zetia® or Vytorin® from November 1, 2002 through September 17, 2009, and who qualify under the Settlement, may receive money as part of the Settlement.

What Does the Settlement Provide?

The proposed Settlement and related agreements provide a total fund of $41.5 million, of which 30% has been allocated to consumers. Attorneys' fees (not to exceed 33% of the total fund) and expenses, payments to Class Representatives, and notice and administration costs will be deducted from the fund before distribution to Class Members. The remaining amount will be distributed to insurers or other entities that pay for drugs, known as Third-Party Payors ("TPPs").

How Do You Get a Payment?

To receive a payment from this Settlement, simply fill out a Claim Form and mail it no later than April 1, 2010. You will be required to provide one form of proof that you paid for Zetia® or Vytorin®. The amount you get depends on how much Zetia® or Vytorin® you paid for, and how many valid claims are filed.

What Are My Legal Rights and Options?

Get more information about the Proposed Settlement. Then you can decide what action to take:

- **Remain in the Settlement** and submit a Claim Form to get payment. Claims must be postmarked by **April 1, 2010.** You give up your right to sue and are bound by all Court orders.
- **Exclude yourself** ("opt out") from the Settlement. A written request for exclusion must be postmarked by **January 15, 2010.** You retain your right to sue and you will not receive any payment as a result of this lawsuit.
- **Object** and remain in the Settlement. Written objections must be postmarked by **January 15, 2010**. You give up your right to sue and are bound by Court orders even if your objection is rejected. If you file an objection, you may appear at the Fairness Hearing to explain your objection, but you are not required to attend.
- **Do nothing** and remain in the Settlement. You must submit a Claim Form to get a payment. You give up your right to sue and are bound by all court orders.

The Court will determine whether to approve the Settlement and attorneys' fees at a Fairness Hearing held on **February 8, 2010**.

The Court has appointed lawyers to represent you at no cost to you. You may choose to hire your own lawyer at your own expense.

For Information About the Proposed Settlement, Your Legal Rights and Filing a Claim:

Visit www.VytorinZetiaSettlement.com Call toll-free 1-800-760-4686

Write: Vytorin/Zetia Settlement, c/o Rust Consulting, Inc., P.O. Box 24785, West Palm Beach, FL 33416

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NOW SHOWING

Twilight Saga: New Moon

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Tuesday		4:00	7:00	

Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart
Thriller, Romance • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
In the second installment of Stephenie Meyer's phenomenally successful 'Twilight' series, the romance between mortal and vampire soars to a new level as Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) delves deeper into the mysteries of the supernatural world she yearns to become part of—only to find herself in greater peril than ever before. Following Bella's ill-fated 18th birthday party, Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) and his family abandon the town of Forks, Washington, in an effort to protect her from the dangers inherent in their world.

The Blind Side

Friday		4:15	7:25	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:25	10:00
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:25	
Tuesday		4:15	7:25	

Sandra Bullock, Tim McGraw
Drama, Biopic • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
The true story of Michael Oher, a homeless African-American youngster from a broken home, taken in by the Touhys, a well-to-do white family who help him fulfill his potential. At the same time, Oher's presence in the Touhys' lives leads them to some insightful self-discoveries of their own. Living in his new environment, the teen faces a completely different set of challenges to overcome. As a football player and student, Oher works hard and, with the help of his coaches and adopted family, becomes an All-American offensive left tackle.

Planet 51

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:30	4:20	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:30	4:20	7:20	
Tuesday		4:20	7:20	

Gary Oldman, Jessica Biel
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
American astronaut Captain Charles "Chuck" Baker, lands on Planet 51 thinking he's the first person to step foot on it. To his surprise, he finds that this planet is inhabited by little green people who are happily living in a white picket fence world reminiscent of a cheerfully innocent 1950s America, and whose only fear is that it will be overrun by alien invaders--like Chuck! With the help of his robot companion "Rover" and his new friend Lem, Chuck must navigate his way through the dazzling, but bewildering, landscape of Planet 51 in order to escape becoming a permanent part of the Planet 51 Alien Invaders Space Museum.

2012

Friday		4:05	7:05	10:10
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	10:10
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Tuesday		4:05	7:05	

John Cusack, Amanda Peet
Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13

The Fourth Kind

Friday		4:30	7:10	9:40
Saturday	1:10	4:30	7:10	9:40
Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:10	
Tuesday		4:30	7:10	

Milla Jovovich, Will Patton
Thriller • Rated PG 13

A Christmas Carol

Friday		4:25	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:15	9:30
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:15	
Tuesday		4:25	7:15	

Jim Carrey, Robin Wright Penn
Adventure, Fantasy • Rated PG

The Box

Friday		4:10	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:30	
Tuesday		4:10	7:30	

Cameron Diaz, James Marsden
Thriller, Horror • Rated PG 13

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Life & Style

AP

In this Nov. 17, 2009 file photo, actor Johnny Depp attends The Museum of Modern Art's film benefit tribute to Tim Burton in New York.

Johnny Depp wins his 2nd 'Sexiest Man Alive' title

NEW YORK (AP)—Get lost, Hugh Jackman. This year's "Sexiest Man Alive" is once again Johnny Depp.

Depp nudged aside Jackman to get the coveted endorsement from People magazine Wednesday. It's the 46-year-old actor's second time as "Sexiest Man Alive." He also won in 2003.

Kate Coyne, senior editor at People, said on CBS' "Early Show" that Depp has achieved an almost "iconic status in terms of sexiness."

Says Coyne: "Johnny Depp was someone who was sexy 10 years ago. He'll be sexy 10 years from now. He's someone who appeals to multiple generations of women."

Depp joins other double winners Brad Pitt, George Clooney and Richard Gere.

Matt Bomer, who stars in USA's "White Collar," was named "Sexiest Rising Star."

2 sites selling Beatles songs to remain shut down

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two Web sites that sold songs by The Beatles for 25 cents apiece should remain shut down indefinitely, a federal judge ruled Wednesday.

U.S. District Judge John F. Walter issued a preliminary injunction against BlueBeat.com and Basebeat.com at the request of music company EMI Group. The injunction prohibits the sites and their owner, Hank Risan, from streaming or selling songs by the Fab Four and other popular artists, including Lily Allen and Coldplay.

A hearing in the case had been scheduled for Friday, but Walter decided the issue based on pleadings by attorneys for Risan and the music label.

A phone message left Wednesday evening for Risan's attorney was not immediately returned.

EMI Group sued Risan and the sites earlier this month to stop the sites from streaming or selling its music. It claimed the sites were selling high-quality versions of copyrighted songs, including Beatles music, which has never been legally released digitally.

Risan argued in court filings that he had re-recorded the music and inserted artistic touches based on a technique he pioneered called "psycho-acoustic simulation."

The process involved re-recording store-bought CDs and improving the quality and trying to simulate how a live listener would hear the music, Risan explained in filings.

Attorneys for the music label dismissed the explanation in a filing as "technobabble and doublespeak."

Janet Jackson: Michael in denial over drug problem

NEW YORK (AP)—Janet Jackson says she recognized her brother Michael's drug problem, and tried to help him, but that he rebuffed those attempts to intervene. "You can't make 'em drink the water," Jackson told ABC News in an interview airing Wednesday. When asked if her brother was in denial about his addiction, she replied, "Possibly."

AP

In this Sept. 28, 2009 file photo, Janet Jackson arrives for the amfAR charity dinner during the fashion week in Milan, Italy.

"I wish he could answer this question for you and not me," she told ABC's Robin Roberts. "I felt that he was in denial."

She blames Dr. Conrad Murray, Michael Jackson's personal physician, for his death June 25.

Prosecutors in Los Angeles are weighing charges against Murray, who told police he administered a powerful anesthetic to the singer shortly before he died.

During the interview, the 43-year-old Janet Jackson spoke of her upcoming diet book, "True You," which chronicles her lifelong struggle to control her weight.

Singer Taylor Swift to debut greeting card line in spring

CLEVELAND (AP)—Fresh off her triumph at the Country Music Association Awards, Taylor Swift has netted a deal to create a line of greeting cards.

AP

In this Nov. 11, 2009 file photo, recording artist Taylor Swift attends the 43rd Annual Country Music Awards in Nashville, Tenn.

American Greetings Corp. CEO Zev Weiss says Swift's abilities as a storyteller and songwriter make her a natural for writing cards that will appeal to all ages.

The Cleveland-based company said Tuesday that cards, gift wrap, stationery, online greetings and other related products overseen by Swift will begin appearing in the spring.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

In a statement, Swift calls the opportunity to write and design greeting cards "a wonderful experience." The 19-year-old Swift, who was named the 2009 CMA entertainer of the year, says she has always been fascinated by feelings and how people express them.

15 documentary features make Oscar's short list

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Of the 89 documentary films eligible for Oscar consideration this year, 15 were selected for a short list of potential nominees, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced Wednesday.

Some of the year's most popular documentary features were overlooked, including Michael Moore's "Capitalism: A Love Story." The R-rated film was praised by critics and earned more than $14 million at the box office.

Also omitted from Oscar consideration was the well-reviewed Mike Tyson documentary "Tyson," the rock-doc "It Might Get Loud," and the story of Vogue magazine and its editor-in-chief, "The September Issue."

The short list of films is determined by a committee of members of the academy's documentary branch. They watch all eligible contenders and vote for their favorites by secret ballot. The top vote-getters make the short list of potential nominees.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Nicole Richie is hospitalized for pneumonia

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nicole Richie has been admitted to a Los Angeles hospital and is being treated for pneumonia. Her representative says she's doing well. Publicist Nicole Perna said Wednesday the 28-year-old actress checked herself into Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Richie was in a Los Angeles courtroom earlier this week after asking for a restraining order against two celebrity photographers. A judge granted that request. Richie costarred with Paris Hilton on the television show "The Simple Life" and is the daughter of singer Lionel Richie. She has since become a fashion and jewelry designer and occasional actress. Richie gave birth to a son, Sparrow James Midnight Madden, in September. She and her partner, rocker Joel Madden, have a daughter, Harlow, who turns 2 in January.

Ian Somerhalder juggles 'Vampire Diaries,' 'Lost'

NEW YORK (AP)—Ian Somerhalder is in two of TV's hottest show—but can't say much about either. Somerhalder plays bad boy vampire Damon on the CW's "Vampire Diaries" and returns from the dead to appear in ABC's final season of "Lost." Somerhalder says he shot the "Lost" season opener in Hawaii and will return "a couple times" while shooting "Vampire Diaries" in Atlanta. As for spoilers, Somerhalder will only say that the "Lost" script was so detailed, it "weighed about three pounds" and that he wears the same clothes he did five years ago. As for "Vampire Diaries," he reveals that Damon is going to do something that makes him "not as all powerful as he used to be."

Woman's size is no deterrent in her search for lasting love

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm 32 and a "large girl." I am also intelligent, witty and fun to be around. I make friends wherever I go. The problem is my mother—who is also big—keeps telling me that heavy women are not desirable and we must "settle" when it comes to choosing a mate.

My mother has had two long, unhappy marriages. She's always saying I think too highly of myself and my standards for men are out of my reach.

Abby, I would rather remain single than marry someone I'm not happy with just to have a man. I'm not looking for a movie star; I just want to find someone I'm attracted to and who has the same values and ideals that I have.

Is Mother right? Am I setting my sights too high?

HAPPY BEING ME IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR HAPPY BEING YOU: I don't think so. If you want to achieve the same level of satisfaction in your life that your mother has, then follow her roadmap. However, if you want more, then cross your fingers and keep looking.

Meeting "The One" is a matter of putting yourself out there, and luck and timing. There are worse things than being alone, and having two long and unhappy marriages ranks right up there. Just look at your mother.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: A year ago, my boss was diagnosed with cancer. She had major surgery and a round of radiation therapy. Last week, her doctor discovered a mass, and after biopsy, she may be going in for more surgery.

I am finding it difficult to show much empathy for my boss. Despite having had the disease she continues to live an unhealthy lifestyle. She still smokes, has a couple of drinks a day and eats a lot of red meat. I don't drink or smoke and I'm a vegetarian, so I can't understand why a person would risk her health by doing these things.

We have received several newsletters at work from our insurance provider on how to prevent cancer, but she hasn't taken any of the advice. Abby, it's not like I have come right out and said, "It's your own fault," but it's frustrating to listen to her problems when she won't try to live a healthy lifestyle. She's generally whiny to begin with, and now she seems to want everyone to feel sorry for her.

What do I need to do to be more sympathetic?

TRYING IN TEMPE

DEAR TRYING: You don't know what caused your boss's cancer and neither do I. Some people who live a healthy lifestyle get cancer anyway—and that includes teetotalling, nonsmoking vegetarians. Please try to remember that—and then think about karma. If you do, it may help you become more sympathetic and less judgmental.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I was with a group of friends at a sports bar discussing the baseball playoffs when the owner of the bar made a racist comment about the game. I was so shocked and offended that I said nothing for the rest of the evening.

Later, I told my friends I was disappointed in myself for not speaking up -- that when someone makes a comment like he did and you let it go, you're condoning that type of behavior. My friends said they just "considered the source" and I should not have been offended. How should we have handled this?

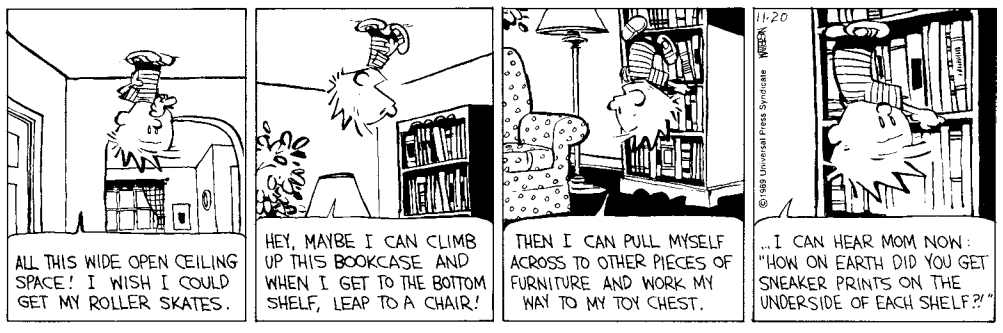
SECOND THOUGHTS IN FLORIDA

DEAR SECOND THOUGHTS: If the comment was offensive, you were right to be offended—regardless of "the source." The way to punish an ignorant bigot such as you described would be to hit him in the wallet. A way to have done that would have been for all of you to leave and tell him why. And another would be for all of you to spread the word about the incident.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


ALL THIS WIDE OPEN CEILING SPACE! I WISH I COULD GET MY ROLLER SKATES.
HEY, MAYBE I CAN CLIMB UP THIS BOOKCASE AND WHEN I GET TO THE BOTTOM SHELF, LEAP TO A CHAIR!
THEN I CAN PULL MYSELF ACROSS TO OTHER PIECES OF FURNITURE AND WORK MY WAY TO MY TOY CHEST.
...I CAN HEAR MOM NOW: "HOW ON EARTH DID YOU GET SNEAKER PRINTS ON THE UNDERSIDE OF EACH SHELF?!"
11-20
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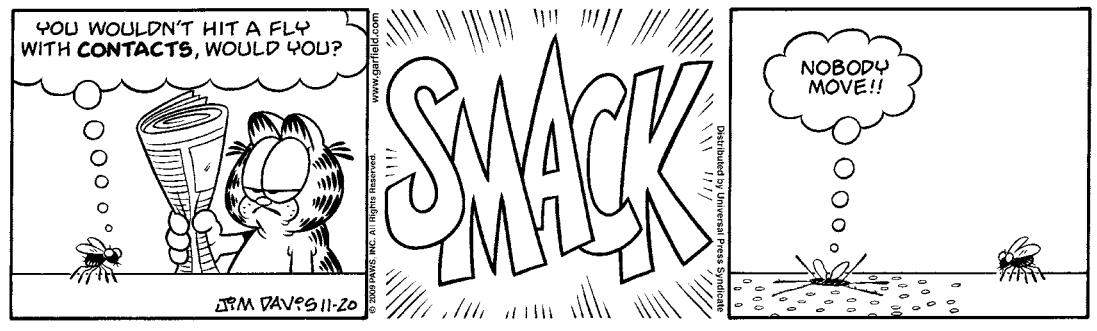
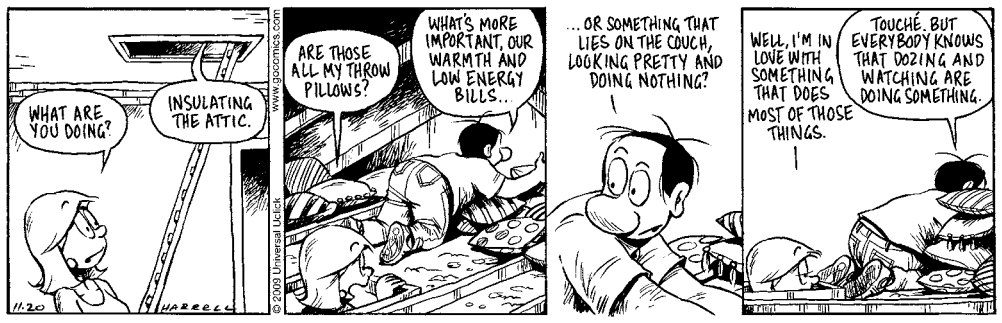
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


YOU WOULDN'T HIT A FLY WITH CONTACTS, WOULD YOU?
JIM DAVIS 11-20
© 2009 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved. www.garfield.com
SMACK
NOBODY MOVE!!
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
INSULATING THE ATTIC.
ARE THOSE ALL MY THROW PILLOWS?
WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT, OUR WARMTH AND LOW ENERGY BILLS..
...OR SOMETHING THAT LIES ON THE COUCH, LOOKING PRETTY AND DOING NOTHING?
WELL, I'M IN LOVE WITH SOMETHING THAT DOES MOST OF THOSE THINGS.
TOUCHÉ. BUT EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT DOZING AND WATCHING ARE DOING SOMETHING.
11-20
© 2009 Universal Uclick www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHERE'S ENO? WE'RE GOING TO MISS HAPPY HOUR.
I DON'T THINK HE'S COMING. HE'S ALL STRESSED OUT ABOUT THAT BIG ZIT ON HIS HEAD.
WOW! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! ENO HASN'T MISSED A HAPPY HOUR IN YEARS!!
OKAY. LET'S ROLL.
11-20 www.gocomics.com
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

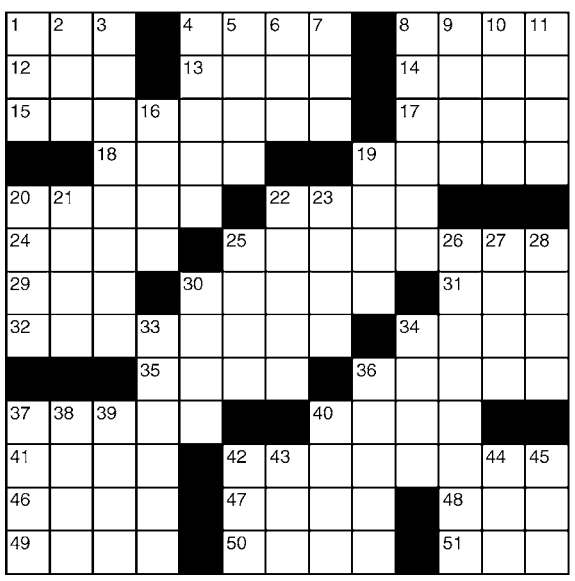
ACROSS
1 Pouch
4 Burn somewhat
8 Leading man?
12 Id partner
13 Wild and crazy
14 Prom-goers' car
15 Chevy model
17 Deck in the ring
18 "The Amazing —"
19 Poolroom supply
20 Mrs. Archie Bunker
22 Brat's stocking stuffer
24 Disencumbers
25 Napoleon, by birth
29 Altar affirmative
30 Sudden voltage increase
31 Inseparable
32 Fabric with ribs
34 Scraps
35 Help a hood
36 Cocktail ingredients?
37 Pieces of eight?
40 Existed
41 Hide in the shadows
42 Worn away
46 Brutus' being
47 Vicinity
48 GIs' entertainers
49 Campus bigwig
50 Kitten's comment
51 Gas gauge fig.

DOWN
1 Moment
2 In olden days
3 Hall
4 Prague citizen
5 Loathe
6 Pismire
7 "Catcher in the —"
8 Acid neutralizer
9 Use an old phone
10 — nitrate
11 Cattle calls?
16 Cisterns
19 Contemptible
20 Newscaster Sevareid
21 One-named singer who recorded "Thank You"
22 "Woman With a Pearl" painter
23 Liberal party?
25 Remedy
26 Abrasive mineral
27 Con
28 Egg container
30 Long sandwiches
33 Dim the lights
34 Layered treat
36 Undomesticated
37 Took off
38 Northamptonshire river
39 — Major
40 Cauldron concoction
42 Photog's need
43 Raw rock
44 Kreskin's claim
45 Homer's interjection

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	A	S	S	■	B	I	O	■	C	A	S	H
O	S	L	O	■	O	R	R	■	A	L	E	E
R	E	A	L	■	S	A	L	■	I	O	N	S
N	A	V	A	J	O	■	A	A	R	E	■	■
■	■	■	C	O	M	I	N	G	O	V	E	R
D	O	P	E	Y	■	O	D	E	■	E	R	A
A	L	A	S	■	T	W	O	■	T	R	I	G
N	I	L	■	A	H	A	■	S	H	A	N	E
G	O	I	N	G	U	N	D	E	R	■	■	■
■	■	■	M	O	O	N	■	A	T	O	M	I	C
D	I	O	S	■	D	I	N	■	W	I	L	E
A	O	N	E	■	E	T	C	■	I	C	E	S
B	U	Y	S	■	R	O	E	■	N	E	X	T

Yesterday's answer 11-20



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mischa Mandel, 26; Sean Young, 50; Bo Derek, 53; Veronica Hamel, 66

Happy Birthday: Ride out any turbulence going on around you and protect your interests. A change at home will allow you greater freedom, ensuring that you come out on top and unscathed. Your health and well-being must be a top priority. Regardless of what anyone else does, stick to your own game plan. Your numbers are 2, 9, 14, 22, 28, 34, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Financial transactions will lead to good fortune. Focus on contracts, investments, saving and budgeting to build your assets. Don't allow your emotions to interfere with your professional decisions. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You are being tugged in too many directions. You have so much going for you that you must stop and realize what's best for you. Learn from past lessons that if you don't take care of your own matters first, you will lose out. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll be drawn to people who are aggressive and playful who will spark enthusiasm in you and push you to finish what you start. Set your mind on whatever needs to be done and see where it leads. If you do a good job and are forthright, you'll end up with benefits you weren't expecting. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Your emotions will take over, causing problems when you need to make a personal decision. Meddling in other people's affairs will lead to repercussions. Take care of your own needs. Be careful while traveling. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Your ability to get others to listen to what you have to say will ensure that you get what you want and when. Don't let anything stand in the way of what you should be doing. There is no time to waste. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Sticking around home will lead to personal problems, leaving you uncertain and questioning your motives. Through conversations with new people you meet, you will learn something about yourself and what you want. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Keep a lid on the way you feel. You won't express yourself well emotionally. You aren't likely to win a disagreement and will probably end up giving in just to keep the peace. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Money can be made, changes to your home and personal life incorporated and new friendships or business partnerships put into play. Let go of the past. It will slow you down, hold you back or confuse you. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Secret matters will surprise you and the thought of having to juggle quickly will be intimidating. Reassess your situation and you will realize what you want to hold on to and what you can part with. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Emotional confusion will set in if you mix business with pleasure. Don't be afraid to delegate a little in order to get what you want. With someone's help, it will be easier to steady yourself and make a financial or professional move. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Put your finest effort into something you know will please the people who care about you. Your success will give you the confidence to do more. A renewed look at your life and where you see yourself heading should give you increased incentive. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): The rewards for kindness, generosity and genuine help will be recognized and will draw the attention of someone who can help you. A change in your status or your financial affairs is looking good. Love is apparent but so are secret affairs. Tread carefully. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are insightful and have leadership abilities. You are thoughtful but firm. You are comfortable with who you are.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6						5		4
			2	6	5			
8								
	9		7		1		3	
	3						8	
	5		4		3		2	
								6
			8	7	2			
1		4						7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	6	2	5	4	1	7	8	3
7	5	8	9	3	6	4	2	1
4	3	1	8	7	2	9	5	6
3	2	9	6	1	5	8	4	7
6	8	7	2	9	4	1	3	5
5	1	4	7	8	3	2	6	9
1	9	6	3	2	8	5	7	4
8	7	3	4	5	9	6	1	2
2	4	5	1	6	7	3	9	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/19

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SLATE **Solution: 8 letters**

H	O	N	E	D	R	A	O	B	K	C	A	L	B	E
E	S	S	E	N	H	T	O	O	M	S	F	L	L	E
A	T	I	N	E	S	E	A	L	E	D	E	B	T	C
V	N	S	N	R	V	E	L	I	T	N	R	A	O	A
Y	E	G	M	E	E	I	O	L	A	A	L	N	N	F
A	M	N	R	U	E	T	T	P	M	P	(S)	I	I	R
L	I	I	K	O	S	R	T	A	O	T	(L)	P	A	U
R	D	D	C	E	L	C	G	A	R	A	(A)	I	R	S
E	E	L	A	A	T	O	O	U	P	O	(B)	E	G	E
V	S	I	T	D	S	I	C	V	H	L	C	C	R	R
O	D	U	S	T	I	T	T	H	I	N	A	E	A	U
G	T	B	T	L	I	L	E	A	S	T	L	N	D	T
R	O	C	K	O	E	M	O	H	M	A	E	D	E	X
A	M	I	N	E	R	A	L	S	H	E	F	I	N	E
Y	B	N	G	I	S	E	D	S	S	C	H	I	S	T

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Blackboard, Buildings, Color, Construction, Decorative, Design, Dust, Fine, Grade, Grain, Gray, Greenish, Heavy, Hematite, Home, Honed, Lead, Marble, Metamorphism, Micas, Minerals, Muscovite, Overlay, Panel, Pattern, Piece, Plane, Plate, Rock, Schist, Sealed, Sediments, Shale, Slab, Smoothness, Solid, Stack, Surface, Texture, Thin, Tile, Tomb

Yesterday's Answer: Dignity

We listened to your requests! **TREASURY #6** is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for $12.95 each plus $3.25 p&h (S14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to: Wonderword, Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$25**
• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Marianas Maid Services

Are you overwhelmed at work?
Has taking care of your kids and the housework become a burden?

LET US MAKE YOUR HOME OR OFFICE

*****SPARKLE*****

Cleaning services starting as low as $40 per cleaning.
All equipment and cleaning supplies provided.

All our staff has been hand picked and are reliable.

Ironing, Laundry, Window washing and many other services available.

Contact Julie at 287-6542 to schedule an appointment.

VEHICLE FOR SALE

2005 MAZDA 3i

For more information, please contact the Bank of Guam Credit Department at telephone number (670) 236-2700 extension 3203, 3204, 3205 and 3206. Bids will be closed on **Friday, November 20, 2009** at **6:00 p.m.**

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers.

BANK OF GUAM
THE PEOPLE'S BANK
Member FDIC

P.O. Box 500678, Saipan MP 96950

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

MANAGER, PROGRAM & HOUSING

Opening Date: October 19, 2009 Closing Date: November 20, 2009
Job Location: NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Salary: PL 35-01, $28,807.51, through PL35-05, $35,012.57, per annum. Commensurate with education, training and experience.

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up during working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit a cover letter together with the NMHC Employment Application Form **AND** required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original cover letter, application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, November 20, 2009 **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than November 20, 2009, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

WHATZIT Solution: A coat of many colors

WANTED TO LEASE

Looking for house property. Lease 55yrs. Budget price $30,000-$35,000. We pay cash. Please call 287-7676.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR SALE

Selling Brand New, billiard/pool table, original price $1,900, now, $1,500, comes with free service. Please call 287-7676.

FOR SALE

For Sale TV 42" $499, DVD Player $199, table $49.00, lamp $9, fridge $149.00, bicycle $299. Call 287-8371.

WANTED TO RENT

Looking for a 3-4 bedroom concrete house for a single family with preferring in the areas of Garapan, Navy Hill, China Town or nearby. Please call Mr. Gu at 989-0336. Thank you.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

Peach
Amber
Russet
Khaki
Auburn

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Find today's solution in this section

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No.	Position	Salary	Open	Close
10-003	Chief Financial Officer (One Position)	Negotiable	11/16/09	12/01/09
10-004	Technical manager for Oil (One Position)	UNG; Negotiable	11/16/09	12/01/09

For more information about the position(s) being advertised, please stop by the Human Resources Office on the third floor of hte Joeten Dandan Building.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 • Fax (670) 235-5131

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

HOUSING PRESERVATION TECHNICIAN II

Opening Date: October 26, 2009 Closing Date: November 27, 2009
Job Location: NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Salary: PL 28-01, $20,484.60 through PL28-05, $24,889.35 per annum. Commensurate with education, training and experience.

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up during working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit a cover letter together with the NMHC Employment Application Form **AND** required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original cover letter, application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, November 27, 2009 **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than November 27, 2009, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

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Saipan Tribune

NOTICE OF INTENT TO VOLUNTARY DISSOLVE A CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given that a Notice of Intent to dissolve Neo Fashion Inc., a corporation which is registered in Saipan, has been delivered to the Registrar of Corporations.

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POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Executive Director

The Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association (NMASA) is seeking applications for the position of Executive Director.

The Executive Director will be committed and responsible for leading the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association (NMASA) within the strategic framework set by the NMASA Board of Directors, through the day-to-day management of NMASA, the development and implementation of initiatives in sport, and in identifying and responding to the challenges within the sports sector.

Key responsibilities include:
- Providing leadership in establishing and implementing national sport strategies to improve participation in organized sport, at the community level, by all the people of the Northern Marianas.
- Creating a successful ongoing Corporate Sponsorship, Marketing and Merchandising Program.
- Creating an effective fundraising program to ensure Team Marianas is fully represented at the Micronesian and Pacific (Mini) Games.
- Developing funding and capacity building partnerships for NMASA with international and regional sports agencies.
- Planning and Organizing the Marianas Games for 2010 and 2011, and working with the Marianas Games Council.
- Attracting international events to the Northern Marianas by working with the Marianas Visitors Authority and national sports federations.
- Organizing Team Marianas to achieve excellence in sports performance to its full potential.
- Developing NMASA and Team Marianas brands and managing an effective communications program for NMASA.
- Driving support for appropriate governance and strategic planning for national sporting federations.
- Providing leadership in developing partnership and capacity building with sports organizations and stakeholders in other sectors (such as health, education, and community services).
- Ensuring that all accountability, reporting and compliance requirements are met.

Suitable applicants with relevant tertiary qualifications and experience in sports management, management and / or business, demonstrated experience in planning, organizing and administration of sports and events, a strong marketing and communications background with the capacity to think and plan at the strategic level and act at the operational level, and demonstrated success with corporate sector fundraising with a proven commercial outlook will be given priority in the selection process.

Applicants should have a sound knowledge of Northern Marianas sports, its challenges, and an understanding of its place in Northern Marianas society and culture, knowledge of the NMASA's and Government's objectives for sport and physical activity, and with proven experience in sports and related activities.

Applicants should exemplify personal drive, proactiveness and high energy, have the proven ability to shape strategic thinking and achieve results, demonstrate the ability to cultivate strong working relationships, and the ability to communicate, and have demonstrated success in achieving high level credibility with stakeholders and the ability to relate effectively to people at all levels.

An attractive package commensurate with the seniority of the role will be available to the successful candidate. However, it must be noted that the Executive Director will be directly involved in raising funds that support ongoing employment of the Executive Director.

Resumes with names and contact details of three (3) references, should be sent to the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association (NMASA) no later than November 30th, 2009. Documents will not be returned.

By hand: Law Offices Michael A. White – 2nd Floor, Joeten Susupe Commercial Building
By mail: Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association (NMASA)
P.O. Box 502476
Saipan MP 96950
By email: mwhite@saipan.com
Closing date: 30th November 2009

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW 09-RFP-031

DESIGN OF COMMONWEALTH DRIVE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals for the **Design of Commonwealth Drive Drainage Improvement** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Maraiana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2004. Article 7, "Local Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is available for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with § 70-30 3-505 of the Procurement Regulations.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after November 20, 2009 at the DPW, Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A Non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (US$100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercaial Center Office. Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference at the south side of Garapan Central Park at 10:00 A.M. on December 09, 2009. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director, Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercail Center, Saipan, or faxed to (670)234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time December 16, 2009.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (resumes and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor or another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications and Background of the Frim – 20%;
2. Past experience of the Firm on design projects and successfully completions- 30%;
3. Project Approach – 30%
4. Capability and ability to perform the work and completed within the time frame- 20%

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW09-RFP-031"**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m. local time, December 21, 2009. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 1:00 p.m. local time, December 21, 2009 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals may be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country prior to, but not later than, December 21, 2009 (CNMI Time) and must be received no later than December 31, 2009 (CNMI Time). Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Performance time for completion of this project is Ninety **(90)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars **(US100.00)** per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals are solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified firms. It shall be used only determined fair and reasonable contract price to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with highest ranking qualified firm, then selection may be made from additional firms in order of comp0tetence and qualification and continue negotiations until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful proposers will be subject to a responsibility determination in compliance with Section 3-30 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the prosposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposals if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW 10-RFP-001

RENOVATIONS TO THE WIC ADMISTRATION BUILDING N-25, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals for the **Renovation to the WIC Administration Building N-25** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Maraiana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2004. Article 7, "Local Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is available for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with § 70-30 3-505 of the Procurement Regulations.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after November 20, 2009 at the DPW, Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A Non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (US$100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercaial Center Office. Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference at the WIC Administration Building N-25, Navy Hill at 1:00 P.M. on December 09, 2009. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director, Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercail Center, Saipan, of faxed to (670)234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time December 16, 2009.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (resumes and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor or another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. **Qualifications and Experiences (50%).** Professional background and caliber of key staff and personnel and demonstrated technical capability. Current and recently completed projects that substantiate the firm's aptitude for project of similar size, scope, and requirements. The team must have post-secondary educational design experience either thru and employee, join venture or consultant.

2. **Organization and Capacity (35%).** Capacity of firm and proposed lead designers to fulfill Project requirements within the current workload, including the Project schedule.

3. **Response to RFB (15%).** Quality and completeness of response to the requirements of this **RFP.**

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW10-RFP-001"**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m. local time, December 21, 2009. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 1:00 p.m. local time, December 21, 2009 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals may be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country prior to, but not later than, December 21, 2009 and must be received no later than December 31, 2009 (CNMI Time). Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Performance time for completion of this project is Ninety **(90)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars **(US100.00)** per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals are solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified firms. It shall be used only determined fair and reasonable contract price to the Government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with highest ranking qualified firm, then selection may be made from additional firms in order of competence and qualifications and continue negotiations until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful proposers will be subject to a responsibility determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the prosposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposals if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

/s JOSEPH KEVIN P. VILLAGOMEZ
Secretary of Public Health

Hawks go atop NBA, beat Heat

ATLANTA (AP)—The Atlanta Hawks reclaimed a share of the lead in the NBA standings with a 105-90 win over the Miami Heat on Wednesday.

Joe Johnson made it two straight 30-point games, and Josh Smith dominated during a decisive first-half run as Atlanta won its sixth in a row.

Johnson scored 30 points on the heels of a 35-point effort against Portland on Monday. Smith was all over the stat sheet: 16 points, 14 rebounds, seven assists, two blocks and two steals.

Michael Beasley led the Heat with 21 points.

AP

Atlanta Hawks guard Joe Johnson (2) takes a shot against Miami Heat guard Quentin Richardson (5) during the first quarter, of an NBA basketball game at Philips Arena, Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2009 in Atlanta.

Magic 108, Thunder 94

In Orlando, Florida, Rashard Lewis fell one assist shy of his first triple-double, finishing with 17 points and 10 rebounds in Orlando's victory over Oklahoma City.

Lewis, who was suspended for the first 10 games of the season for violating the league's drug policy, didn't play in the fourth quarter, which the Magic started with an 88-58 lead.

Vince Carter shot 18 points for the Magic.

Trail Blazers 87, Pistons 81

In Portland, Oregon, Brandon Roy and LaMarcus Aldridge each scored 20 points, and Portland held off tired but tenacious Detroit.

Rodney Stuckey had 21 points for the Pistons, who were playing the second of a back-to-back.

Mavericks 99, Spurs 94

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 11 of his season-high 41 points in overtime as Dallas held on to beat San Antonio.

Drew Gooden added 17 points and 11 rebounds before fouling out late in the fourth quarter to help Dallas extend its winning streak to four games.

Tim Duncan had 22 points and 14 rebounds for the Spurs, winless in four road games this season. San Antonio was without starting guard Tony Parker (ankle) and lost guard Manu Ginobili (groin) in the first quarter.

Celtics 109, Warriors 95

In Boston, Rajon Rondo scored 12 of his season high-tying 18 points in the third quarter as Boston downed Golden State.

Paul Pierce, who missed a day of practice with a sore left knee, scored 19 on 7-of-12 shooting. Pierce made a key 3-pointer after the Celtics went on a 12-0 third-quarter run to take control.

Corey Maggette scored 23 points for the Warriors, who had just nine players in uniform and played eight.

Wizards 108, Cavaliers 91

In Washington, Antawn Jamison delivered 31 points and 10 rebounds in his season debut as Washington beat Cleveland to end a six-game losing streak.

Wearing a protective sleeve over the right shoulder that sidelined him since October, Jamison looked good from the start, scoring 13 points in the first quarter.

Cleveland's LeBron James finished with 34 points and nine assists, but he scored only six points in the fourth quarter while shooting 3 for 7. The Cavaliers, without the injured Shaquille O'Neal and Anderson Varejao, had their five-game winning streak snapped.

Jazz 104, Raptors 91

In Salt Lake City, rookie Eric Maynor scored 11 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter, helping Utah hang on after blowing most of an 18-point lead against Toronto.

Carlos Boozer had 22 points and 18 rebounds for the Jazz, who had only nine players available because of injuries but still beat Toronto for the ninth straight time.

Chris Bosh scored 32 points and pulled down 17 rebounds for the Raptors, who lost their third straight.

Rockets 97, Timberwolves 84

In Minneapolis, Luis Scola had 20 points and a season-high 16 rebounds as Houston handed Minnesota its 11th loss in a row.

Trevor Ariza scored 18 points for the Rockets, who hit 12 3-pointers.

Al Jefferson returned to the lineup for Minnesota after missing the past two games to be with his grandmother, who died last week. He made his first eight shots and finished with 20 points and 10 rebounds.

76ers 86, Bobcats 84

In Philadelphia, Lou Williams' layup with 3.1 seconds remaining lifted Philadelphia over Charlotte.

Andre Iguodala scored 25 points, Williams had 19 and Elton Brand contributed season highs of 19 points, 11 rebounds and six blocked shots for the Sixers.

Stephen Jackson scored 10 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter for the reeling Bobcats, who dropped their sixth straight and fell to 0-6 on the road.

Knicks 110, Pacers 103

In Indianapolis, Al Harrington scored 13 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter against his former team, and New York beat Indiana to snap a six-game losing streak.

Larry Hughes had 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Knicks, who overcame a double-digit deficit in the final period.

Indiana's Danny Granger scored 30 of his 33 points in the first half, but fouled out in the fourth quarter and wasn't a factor after halftime. The Pacers had won five straight.

Grizzlies 106, Clippers 91

In Memphis, Tennessee, Rudy Gay and Zach Randolph scored 21 points apiece, and Memphis beat Los Angeles.

Marc Gasol set a record for consecutive field goals made, making 15 straight over a two-game span before a miss in the third period.

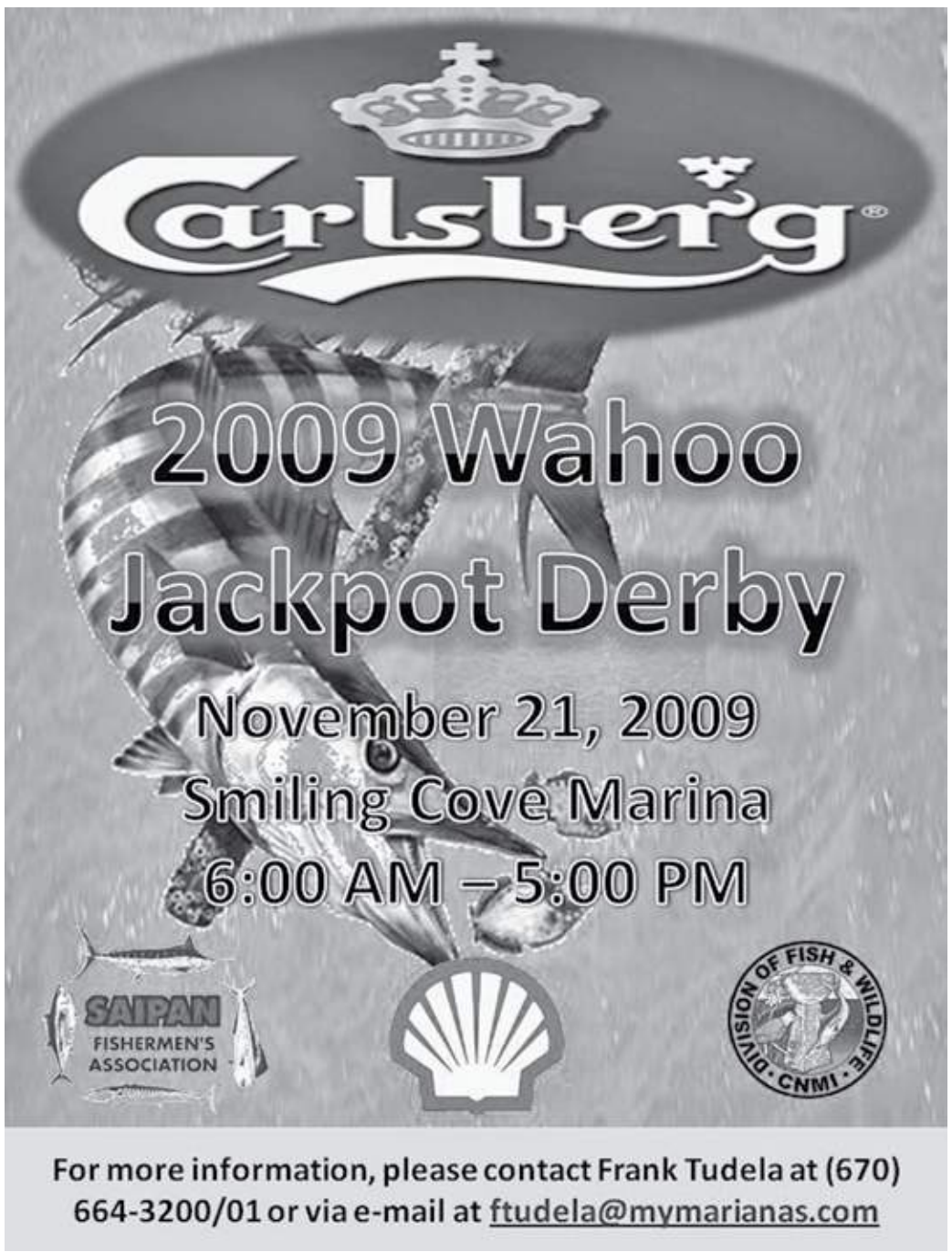
Baron Davis led the Clippers with 23 points.

Bucks 99, Nets 85

In Milwaukee, Andrew Bogut and Carlos Delfino each scored 21 points and Bogut also grabbed 11 rebounds as Milwaukee beat winless New Jersey.

The undermanned Nets have lost 12 straight for their longest single-season losing streak in more than 19 years.

This one was painful because Chris Douglas-Roberts scored a career-high 31 points and had 10 rebounds, but the Nets blew a 48-41 halftime lead by shooting 9 of 38 in the second half.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Shaq (shoulder) to sit out at least 1 more game

WASHINGTON (AP)—Shaquille O'Neal could miss the Cleveland Cavaliers' next couple of games with a strained shoulder.

O'Neal did not travel with the Cavaliers for their game at the Washington Wizards on Wednesday night, the third consecutive time he sat out.

Cleveland coach Mike Brown said O'Neal also will be out Friday at Indiana, and the center also might be sidelined for Saturday's home game against Philadelphia.

"It's early in the year. We all have a better comfort level than what we had in Game 1, Game 2, Game 3. And so in my opinion, it's an opportune time to let him get some rest and let him get his body back," Brown said.

Asked if it's that he doesn't want O'Neal to play every game, Brown replied: "I'm not thinking of, 'He's got to play 'X' amount of games.' Just like in practice, I'm not thinking, 'He's got to practice 75 percent of the time.'"

Then, pointing to his gut, Brown continued: "It's just right here, and if I feel it, I sit him down. If I don't, then I won't. If he feels it, hopefully he'll communicate it with me, and same with our trainers. We'll just kind of go from there. But really it's not anything I'm doing that's scientific or with a formula to it. I'm not that smart."

O'Neal is playing about 24 minutes per game this season, averaging 11.3 points and 6.8 rebounds.

Anderson Varejao has a bruised hip and also was inactive against Washington.

"If tonight was a playoff game, he would play," Brown said.

The Cavaliers entered Wednesday on a five-game winning streak.

LeBron says he could star in NFL

CLEVELAND (AP)—NBA superstar LeBron James watched the Cleveland Browns be whitewashed by the Baltimore Ravens 16-0 on Monday and came to one simple conclusion: He could help.

"If I put all my time and commitment into it, if I dedicated myself to the game of (American) football, I could be really good," the Cleveland Cavaliers guard said on Tuesday. "No matter what team I was on."

The Browns, with one win in nine games, have one of the NFL's most anemic offenses. The NBA's reigning MVP certainly couldn't make things any worse.

James was a wide receiver at high school, and chosen to represent Ohio state before quitting football after his third year to focus on basketball. But he still follows the game closely and believes he could have been a hybrid tight end/receiver in the mold of San Diego's Antonio Gates or Atlanta's Tony Gonzalez.

Gates, who played basketball in college and not football, is listed at 6-foot-4 and 260 pounds. James is listed at 6-8 and 250 pounds.

"They're not always lined up next to the tackle," James said. "Sometimes they go against strong safeties and linebackers. It's tough to match up with those guys because they're so athletic."

James filmed a commercial last year for an insurance company that depicted him in a No. 23 Browns jersey with "LeBron" stitched across the back.

Scioscia, Tracy win Manager of the Year awards

NEW YORK (AP)—The Los Angeles Angels could have crumbled when pitcher Nick Adenhart was killed in a car accident in April, overcome by waves of grief and sadness.

Mike Scioscia kept them moving forward.

"There wasn't one defining moment," he said. "I think as the season started to evolve guys found that sense of purpose to play baseball again and they played it at a very, very high level."

Scioscia

For his deft touch during a trying season, Scioscia won the AL Manager of the Year award on Wednesday for the second time. Jim Tracy of Colorado was selected for the NL honor.

Tracy became the second manager to win the award after taking over during the season, joining Jack McKeon for Florida in 2003. Less than an hour after the award was announced, the Rockies said Tracy had been rewarded with a three-year contract.

"What we're talking about this afternoon, it's probably as flattering an experience as I've come to realize during the course of my professional career in athletics," Tracy said. "And obviously a new contract is extremely exciting. But what is more intriguing for me is what is still out there for our ballclub."

Tracy received 29 first-place votes and two seconds for 151 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Scioscia got 15 first-place votes, 10 seconds and one third for 106 points.

Tracy

The Rockies promoted Tracy from bench coach after Clint Hurdle was fired in late May and won the wild-card race. Scioscia and the Angels paid tribute to Adenhart with their fifth AL West title in six years.

"Some things, you're never prepared for," Scioscia said. "But those things really weren't about us. They were about the Adenhart family and I think as we supported them we found some peace."

Ron Gardenhire finished second in the AL voting for the second straight year and fifth time during his eight seasons as Minnesota manager. He also placed third in 2002, when Scioscia was honored for the first time, but has never won the award. Tony La Russa of the Cardinals, a four-time winner, was a distant second in the NL with 55 points.

Lou Piniella of the Cubs and Joe Maddon of the Rays were honored last year.

Colorado was 18-28 and 14 1/2 games behind NL West-leading Los Angeles when general manager Dan O'Dowd dismissed Hurdle on May 29 and offered the job to Tracy.

"I didn't immediately say yes," Tracy recalled. "I asked for 60 minutes to think about it and he told me you can have 60 but you can't have 61 because he needed somebody down in the dugout to manage that night."

Tracy was sold when O'Dowd told him he just wanted to see the team play better. He thought he could take care of that—and the Rockies responded to his steady hand. They went 74-42 the rest of the way, extending the division race to the final weekend before settling for the wild card.

There was no Rocktober this year—Colorado lost to Philadelphia in the division series—but it was still quite the turnaround for the club and Tracy, who was fired after leading the Pittsburgh Pirates to a 68-94 record in 2007.

The 53-year-old Tracy was out of baseball before becoming the Rockies' bench coach in November 2008.

"With as young as we are and with as much as we grew in such a short period of time, I can't even begin to tell you how much I'm looking forward to the future," he said.

Selig: Baseball will tighten playoff schedule

CHICAGO (AP)—Baseball plans to cut down on off days during the postseason next year. Commissioner Bud Selig said Wednesday he's working on tightening up the 2010 playoff schedule so there will be fewer gaps between games.

Los Angeles Angels manager Mike Scioscia criticized the current format after the Yankees and Angels played only eight times in 20 days going into Game 6 of the AL championship series.

"We're going to change it," Selig said. "I don't disagree with Mike Scioscia. I think he was right, so we're going to try and tighten that up."

Selig also said he would continue to discuss instant replay, but it's not expected to be a major topic when owners have a full meeting Thursday morning even though there were several missed calls by umpires during the postseason.

In the past, Selig has resisted the idea of expanded video replay. Under the current system, it is used only to judge if home runs have cleared the fence or are fair or foul.

"I'm going to talk to a lot of people. I haven't changed my view at all, but I'm always willing to talk to a lot of people and I've talked to a lot of managers and I've talked to a lot of general managers," Selig said. "I haven't heard from anybody about instant replay. The only comments I get are when I call somebody on a bunch of subjects and we talk about it."

NFL fines Browns QB Brady Quinn for hit on Suggs

BEREA, Ohio (AP)—Cleveland Browns quarterback Brady Quinn has been fined by the NFL for his low hit on Baltimore's Terrell Suggs. After throwing an interception in Monday night's 16-0 loss to the Ravens, Quinn dived at Suggs' knees while trying to bring down cornerback Chris Carr, who had picked him off. Suggs had to leave the game and could miss significant playing time.

Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis accused Quinn of a cheap shot.

Quinn understands why the Ravens were mad and can appreciate them questioning his intentions.

"I can see why they'd be upset," he said. "But again, he wasn't even in my vision. I was trying to get to the ball. He cut across my face as I was already try to jump down for the tackle."

Quinn dropped his head and threw his body into Suggs' right knee, thinking he would be able to bring down Carr. He was flagged for a low block and the Browns were penalized 15 yards.

Quinn received a letter from the league on Wednesday but would not disclose the size of his fine, saying only that it was "a good amount."

He maintains he was not trying to hurt Suggs, with whom he has worked out in the off-season. Quinn apologized to him and the Ravens after the game and plans to reach out to Suggs again.

"I wasn't trying to go for him," he said. "I was trying to go for the ball carrier. Unfortunately, a thing like that can happen. I'm praying for him. Hopefully he'll be all right."

Browns coach Eric Mangini believes Quinn was only trying to tackle Carr.

"Knowing Brady, he's a good person," Mangini said. "I don't think he would ever look to hurt someone deliberately."

A Double Weekend & Thanksgiving Holiday

Tennis Extravaganza in Saipan

Tennis and sports fans!
The first weekend of action starts TONIGHT!

Fans and players are advised to go to the American Memorial Park at 5pm to see the designated match times and courts.
Or visit www.tanholdings.com/tennis

Players are encouraged to also sign up for the second weekend tournament as well at www.tanholdings.com/tennis

Junior Long Court Singles and Doubles and Adult Doubles:
November 25 (Evening), 27-29 (All Day), 2009
Only Saipan residents will play Wednesday, November 25. Off-island competitors will start, at the earliest, at 9am Friday, Nov. 27.
Entry Deadline: Friday, November 20
Draw Posted by: Monday, November 23

Matches will be played at American Memorial Park (Headquarters), Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Pacific Islands Club.

Consolation Draws for first round losers - two matches guaranteed - prizes for all main draw finalists and singles consolations winners.

To Register:
Please pick up registration forms at Tan Holdings accounting office: 1st Floor, JP Center (Century Travel, Century Insurance, Saipan Tribune are located within this building) on Beach Road, Garapan. Submit cash or check (made payable to "Tan Siu Lin Foundation") with your registration form.

Singles: $15.00
Doubles: $10.00 (per person)
Singles and Doubles: $25.00

Or you can visit the official website at:
www.tanholdings.com/tennis/

Applications and inquiries may be emailed to ed_arrlola@tanholdings.com or call 233-8080 for more information.

1st Annual Tennis Classic

Participants receive a commemorative towel, t-shirt, Gatorade, water, and banquet invitation.

Grand Slam sponsors:
Gatorade, #1 Quality Distributors, Meat • Seafood • Food Products, TakeCare, Mobil, Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Match Point sponsors:
AON, Shirley's Coffee Shop, IT&E, Continental Airlines, Hertz, docomo Pacific

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First Hawaiian Bank, Deloitte, Miller Lite, Pepsi, AMS Typhoon Shutters

DCCA, CHC survive wild-card phase

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and Commonwealth Health Center kept their playoffs bid alive after winning separate matches in the wild-card phase of the IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League on Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

DCCA crushed Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighters in the first game, 96-72, while CHC had a similar easy win over Customs in the second match, 85-50.

These four teams had to go through the wild-card phase after placing at the bottom fifth of the 12-team field. DCCA finished ninth in the regular season, followed by CHC, Customs, and ARFF. Bank of Guam was eighth and drew a bye in the first round. DCCA and CHC will square off tomorrow for the right to face Bank of Guam for the eighth and last playoffs berth.

Winner of the wild-card phase will join the early seven qualifiers, namely pennant champion Hyatt Regency Saipan (10-1), host IT&E (10-1), NTT Docomo (7-4), Tinian (7-4), McGraw-Hill/Public School System (7-4), CPA-Accounting (6-5), and Micronesian Brokers, Inc. (5-6).

DCCA leaned on its balance offense to oust ARFF, as the former had six players scoring in double figures. Elias Rangamar led DCCA with 16 points.

In the second game, Edgar Pangelinan, Richard Brostrom, and Ben Lisua combined for 61 points to outscore the entire Customs crew and lift CHC to a 35-point win.

First Game

DCCA 96 – Rangamar 16, Dela Cruz, 15, Rogolifoi 13, Van Buren 12, P. Camacho 12, Igitol 10.

ARFF 72 – Quitugua 27, Reyes 16, Uchel 8, Sanchez 8, Cepeda 6, Camacho 2, Palacios 2.

Scoring by quarters: 28-16, 47-30, 72-52, 96-72.

Second Game

CHC 85 – Pangelinan 24, Brostom 19, Lisua 18, Kwon 9, Duenas 3, Diaz 3.

Customs 50 – D. Reyes 11, L. Reyes 9, Rosario 8, R. Lizama 6, R. Sablan 6, J.P. Sablan 4, Cepeda 2, Ja. Sablan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-11, 48-25, 66-37, 85-50.

Noris Kwon, left, seen here trying to swat the ball away from Barrie Maratita, plays for CHC, which won over Customs in the wild-card phase of the government/business caging on Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

TITLE

From Page 44

Predator" Aiken vs. Myron "The Natural" San Nicolas (heavyweight); and Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial vs. Mike "Ogre" Davis (heavyweight).

"Winners of our heavyweight match-ups will meet again for the heavyweight title in our next event," Boyer said.

There is another four-man competition for the middleweight title among Syl Teregeyo, Donnie Fejeran, Pete Guerrero and Keli Manglona. Teregeyo and Fejeran will duel tomorrow with the winner facing the victor of the Guerrero-Manglona bout in the next event.

"From then on, the match-ups will be one-on-one in defense of the belt. We did it this way to really bring out the most deserving winner," Boyer added.

Besides the title bouts, another interesting feature in "Confrontation" is Ultimate Fighter Season 8 Finalist Philippe "The Filipino Assasin" Nover, who will referee one bout tomorrow.

Nover, who is based in Brooklyn, New York, was at the Borderline store in Joeten Shopping Centre in Susupe yesterday for autograph signing with MMA fans and fellow fighters. He arrived on Saipan on Wednesday morning and is honored to be part of the growing sport of MMA on the island.

"To all the fighters, good luck. Give your best in every round and I am sure all the sacrifices and efforts you put into training for this event will be rewarded come fight night," he said. "I am looking forward to exciting MMA action on Saipan."

NONI

From Page 44

left on the clock. Noni faltered in its next offensive set, while Mendoza made a fastbreak layup to grab the lead, 87-86, with 50 seconds remaining in the final canto.

Glenn Aquino missed a long jumper, but Kae Bernardo claimed the offensive rebound and kicked it out to Wowie Abuel, who then connected on a triple, giving the lead back to Noni, 89-87.

IT&E committed an error in the ensuing play when Quincy Johnson tried to rush things, attacking the right baseline against two Noni defenders and losing the ball, with 24 seconds left in the game.

Noni made an inbound and Sonny Lerio received the pass, but instead of dribbling out of trouble, he waited for IT&E defenders to clamp down on him and Peter Mendiola eventually stole the ball. Errol Peredo went for the basket after Mendiola's pass and the former was fouled. Peredo canned both free throws to tie the game, 89-all, with 15 seconds left on the clock.

In Noni's next offensive set, De Vero's pass inside to Bernardo was too strong and went off the baseline, returning possession to IT&E, with eight seconds left on the clock. IT&E had a timeout left, but opted not to use it to set up a play. Cadagat, after receiving the inbound pass from the backcourt, dribbled all the way to their frontcourt and went past two defenders, but missed a floater from the right key.

The IT&E-Noni tiff was first scheduled for Tuesday, but was called off due to rain and reset for Wednesday. IT&E led at 50-37 in the second half on Wednesday when rain suspended the match, anew. It resumed after a few minutes, but was called off again in overtime. Organizers finally decided to reset the match, as it was almost 11pm.

Also rescheduled was the master's game between Wushin Corp. and Ebisuya. Ebisuya was ahead, 57-45, when the match was stopped with only 10 seconds remaining in the third period.

KEGLERS

From Page 44

pating in three events—Singles, Doubles, and Team. The total scores in the three events will be used to determine the All-Events winners. The Top 16 male and female bowlers in the All-Events will then qualify for the two-day Masters Event. Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded for each of the five events.

The Asian Intercity Bowling Championships is an annual event with participants from member and guest cities from Asia and the Marianas like the CNMI, Guam, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, and Taiwan.

There were years when cities from Australia, New Zealand and India also participated. In 2007, the tournament was held in Macau, China. The tournament is officially sanctioned by the International Bowling Federation and the World Tenpin Bowling Association, the world-wide governing bodies of tenpin bowling.

SBA would like to extend its thanks Tan Siu Lin Foundation and IT&E for their support to the delegation. The former donated $1,000 in cash, while the latter gave $300, T-shirts, and phone cards to the delegation.

SBA president Jerry Tan also thanked the individual bowlers for participating in the 23rd Asian Intercity Bowling Championships this weekend and paying part of the tournament expenses.

MATCHES

From Page 44

4.0 division has lured 15 netters. Majority of the CNMI's 14-and-under players are entered in the men's 3.0 singles. Fourteen-year-old Rafael Jones did not join the bandwagon, as he decided to play in the men's 4.0 singles. He is seeded second behind top-seeded Richard Asuncion and will duel adult player Buddy Garote in first round tonight at 7m at AMP.

Guam's David and Sam Lai are also playing in the men's 4.0 singles. Sam will battle a junior player in Christian Miller in the first round tomorrow, while brother David will collide against Chuck Sayon.

Week 1 of the tournament will also have competitions in the boys' and girls' 10-and-under singles and 10-and-under mixed doubles.

The girls' 10-and-under singles has 11 players in Guam's Dychhya Bjugel, Anna Calvert, and Eunice Byun, and Saipan's Isabel Heras, Tiffany Madlambayan, Minku Kim, Julie Park, Sally Hwang, Grace Kim, Aileen Dimaano, and Nelson Hana.

Fifteen players will vie for the boys' 10-and-under singles crown with Saipan's Erik Kim drawing a bye in the first round. Guam has six players in the boys' 10-and-under singles, while Saipan has nine.

CNMI coach Jeff Race, who is expected to compete in Week 2, is pleased to have a tournament of this magnitude.

"I am thrilled to have this kind of tournament, where you have many Guam players coming here and playing against our players. It was like the Micronesian Games where we played against players with variety of skills and was clueless on how they play. I believe we will have an exciting two weekends of tennis," Race said.

The inaugural tournament is being supported by Gatorade, Quality Distributors, Take-Care, Mobil, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, AON, Shirley's Coffee Shop, IT&E, Continental Airlines, Hertz, Docomo Pacific, First Hawaiian Bank, Deloitte, Miller Lite, Pepsi, and AMS Typhoon Shutters.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	9	3	.750	–
Philadelphia	5	6	.455	3 1/2
Toronto	5	7	.417	4
New York	2	9	.182	6 1/2
New Jersey	0	12	.000	9

Southeast Division

Atlanta	10	2	.833	–
Orlando	9	3	.750	1
Miami	7	4	.636	2 1/2
Washington	3	7	.300	6
Charlotte	3	8	.273	6 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	8	4	.667	–
Milwaukee	6	3	.667	1/2
Chicago	6	4	.600	1
Indiana	5	4	.556	1 1/2
Detroit	5	7	.417	3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	9	3	.750	–
Houston	7	5	.583	2
San Antonio	4	5	.444	3 1/2
New Orleans	4	8	.333	5
Memphis	3	8	.273	5 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	8	3	.727	–
Portland	9	4	.692	–
Oklahoma City	6	6	.500	2 1/2
Utah	5	6	.455	3
Minnesota	1	11	.083	7 1/2

Pacific Division

Phoenix	10	2	.833	–
L.A. Lakers	8	3	.727	1 1/2
Sacramento	5	5	.500	4
L.A. Clippers	4	9	.308	6 1/2
Golden State	3	8	.273	6 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 86, Charlotte 84
Orlando 108, Oklahoma City 94
Atlanta 105, Miami 90
Washington 108, Cleveland 91
New York 110, Indiana 103
Boston 109, Golden State 95
Memphis 106, L.A. Clippers 91
Houston 97, Minnesota 84
Milwaukee 99, New Jersey 85
Utah 104, Toronto 91
Dallas 99, San Antonio 94, OT
Portland 87, Detroit 81

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	11	128	80	341	31.0
Anthony, DEN	11	110	100	329	29.9
Wade, MIA	10	91	97	289	28.9
Durant, OKC	11	105	93	313	28.5
James, CLE	11	100	89	306	27.8
Bosh, TOR	11	91	102	290	26.4
Nowitzki, DAL	11	98	82	289	26.3
Jennings, MIL	8	77	29	204	25.5
Granger, IND	8	62	48	196	24.5
Paul, NOR	10	85	49	238	23.8
Arenas, WAS	9	70	51	211	23.4
Johnson, ATL	11	97	44	253	23.0
Gordon, DET	11	81	60	242	22.0
Kaman, LAC	12	108	46	262	21.8
Gay, MEM	10	77	44	205	20.5
Roy, POR	12	80	69	244	20.3
Ellis, GOL	10	81	29	197	19.7
Stoudemire, PHX	12	83	68	234	19.5
Harrington, NYK	10	68	45	189	18.9
Howard, ORL	11	69	68	206	18.7

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Howard, ORL	69	104	.663
Oden, POR	50	82	.610
Hilario, DEN	57	94	.606
Speights, PHL	52	86	.605
Paul, NOR	85	143	.594
Bynum, LAL	75	127	.591
Jos. Smith, ATL	75	128	.586
Rondo, BOS	55	95	.579
Landry, HOU	68	119	.571
Horford, ATL	63	111	.568

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Noah, CHI	10	46	78	124	12.4
Bosh, TOR	11	45	85	130	11.8
Wallace, CHA	10	25	90	115	11.5
Gasol, MEM	10	33	81	114	11.4
Howard, ORL	11	39	79	118	10.7
Boozer, UTA	10	19	88	107	10.7
Haywood, WAS	9	39	56	95	10.6
Randolph, MEM	10	48	56	104	10.4
Horford, ATL	11	30	82	112	10.2
Thompson, SAC	10	47	53	100	10.0

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	12	143	11.9
Williams, UTA	8	79	9.9
Paul, NOR	10	92	9.2
Kidd, DAL	11	99	9.0
Rondo, BOS	11	96	8.7
James, CLE	11	88	8.0
Westbrook, OKC	11	83	7.5
B. Davis, LAC	12	89	7.4
Calderon, TOR	11	74	6.7
Brooks, HOU	11	72	6.5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tudela tops November women's tourney

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the CNMI Women's Golf Association November Tournament last Saturday pose at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Terry Tudela won her first monthly championship of the year when she topped the CNMI Women's Golf Association November Tournament last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

A winner twice in 2008 (February and March), Tudela needed 11 months to ascend to the winner's podium in 2009 after shooting a net 74 last weekend. Her winning score was aided by her 17 handicap that reduced her 91 gross (49-42) to the two-over par score.

Ching Lin Wang and Kim Yang tied each other with their identical 75s, but the former took second lace on a scorecard tiebreak. The 13-handicap Wang shot a gross of 88 (43-45), while Yang, who sports a 14 handicap, fired a gross of 89 (45-44).

Noriko Togawa (76 net, 89 gross) and Masayo Miyamoto (76, 87) completed the Top 5 for the November tourney.

A total of 18 players took part in the November competition. The rest of the field, with their net scores, in parenthesis are as follows: Shiori Onoue (78); Yuko Togawa (79); Grace Wang (79); Dolores Yamagishi (79); Lorraine Babauta (81); Ran Seo Kyung (81); Yang A Kyung (82); Lou Kim (83); Kimiko Abe (83); Aya Matsumoto (84); Eun Ae Chang (85); Bennet Seman (91); and Hee Seong Seon (gross of 114).

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

The organization intends to accomplish the following: 1. Promote civic and community interest in golf; 2. Establish and encourage competition and good sportsmanship; 3. Promote and provide social functions of the members and their families; 4. Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct-adopted form the USA Junior Golf Association.

The set of values members of CWGA are committed to faithfully are as follows: perseverance; sportsmanship; respect; honesty; judgment; responsibility; reliance; courtesy; and sincerity.

For more information about the club's monthly tournaments, call Noriko Togawa at 287-0027, Lou Kim at 483-5255, Terry Tudela at 483-1761, Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, and Bennet Seman at 483-0126. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Wahoo Jackpot Derby tomorrow

The 2009 Wahoo Jackpot Derby will be held tomorrow, Nov. 21, from the Smiling Cove Marina in Puerto Rico.

Pre-registration is set today, Nov. 20, from 5pm to 6:30pm at Smiling Cove Marina. The cost to participate in the derby is $125 per boat with no limit on the number of anglers.

Officials from the Saipan Fishermen's Association will briefly go over the rules and regulations of the derby during the pre-registration. It will then be followed by the blessing of the boats.

The following day, Nov. 21, the competition will start bright and early at 6am and boats and their crew have until 5pm to catch the biggest wahoo. The awards banquet will start immediately at 6pm.

Aside from the SFA, also sponsoring the 2009 Wahoo Jackpot Derby are Carlsberg, Shell Marianas, and the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife.

For more information about the 2009 Wahoo Jackpot Derby, contact MVA's Frank Tudela at 664-3200/01 or e-mail at ftudela@mymarianas.com.

Last year, captain John T. Sablan and the crew of *MV Gloria II* won the 2008 Wahoo Jackpot Derby after reeling in a 38.15-lb. wahoo.

Sablan said he and his crew, made up of Ray Guerrero, Tom Diaz, and Beltau "Bird Island" Palacios, caught the whopping wahoo in the waters west off Tinian and it took them about 10 minutes to subdue the fish.

The MV Gloria II's captain said he has been an avid angler since 1997 and has two runner-up trophies in mahi-mahi derbies to show for it. Aside from the winning wahoo, Diaz and his crew also caught a big white tuna, a mahi-mahi, and a barracuda during the one-day tournament. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MV Gloria II captain John T. Sablan, second from left, and his crew made up of Ray Guerrero, Tom Diaz, and Beltau "Bird Island" Palacios pose with the 38.15-lb. wahoo they caught in the 2008 edition of the Wahoo Jackpot Derby.

Kibiriel, Kindell top DFS Durables Fun Run

Speedsters Ketson "Jack" Kabriel and Suzy Kindell won the DFS Durables Halloween Fun Run held earlier this month.

Kabiriel, nicknamed the Roadrunner Bunny, completed the run in 21:61 to win the men's division, while Kindell negotiated the course in 27:94 to the women's category.

Tamio Nishikido and Alexander Rocomo finished second and third overall after submitting times of 23:90 and 25:14, respectively. Completing the Top 5 were Joshua Berger (27:93) and Kindell.

A total of 33 runners took part in the Nov. 4 race that started at DFS Galleria. From the Garapan landmark, participants went north into American Memorial Park, down to the Puerto Rico dump and then turn around.

They then had to run back on the pathway through Smiling Cove and on the pathway to Micro Beach, then out to Micro Beach Road to Beach Road and back to DFS.

Early registrants got to take home an event T-shirt given away by organizers led by Wolf Mojica. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ketson "Jack" Kabriel and Suzy Kindell receive their in-kind prizes after topping the DFS Durables Halloween Fun Run held last Nov. 4. They are joined in the photo by DFS' Ben Babauta, left, and Jeff Taylor.

November Ace of the Month this Sunday

The Fil-Taga Golfers Association will hold its November Ace of the Month Tournament this Sunday, Nov. 22, at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi.

Tournament director Ted Malaran said the November tournament will have a show time of 11am with tee-off time scheduled 30 minutes later at 11:30am.

Slots are available for at least 16 players—Class A and B—with division winners getting $75 apiece. Winners of each group can win as much as $75.

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights.

A Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champion is crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every third Sunday. Green fees are in the $35 to $40 price range for most tournaments.

Its 2008-2009 set of officers are led by president Mike Cruz, vice president Jhun Calma, secretary Manny Po, treasurer Arnaldo Guban, and board of directors Fr. Manny Corcuera , Jhun Dela Cruz, Ted Malaran, Gil Faller, Rey Ferraz, Greg De Torres, Rene Batallones, Nestor Siruelo, and George Sablan. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Thanks-4-Giving Volleyball Tournament set

Island Volleyball Club will be hosting a Women's/Men's Indoor Thanks-4-Giving Volleyball Tournament on Nov. 27, 28, and 29 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The club will hold an organizational meeting on Nov. 25 where it will distribute pool play assignments, ground rules, and awards list.

The club said anyone can play regardless of age as long as they understand that they will be playing against adults and veteran players.

Entrance fee is $10 per player. Teams can have as many players as they want. Games will be timed at eight minutes per set and the championship will not be timed.

For more information, contact Jonas Barcinas at jonzmb66@yahoo.com or 483-9219. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Tudela tops November women's tourney

Terry Tudela won her first monthly championship of the year when she topped the CNMI Women's Golf Association November Tournament last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

43

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Hawks go atop NBA, beat Heat

The Atlanta Hawks reclaimed a share of the lead in the NBA standings with a 105-90 win over the Miami Heat on Wednesday.

40

Title belt at stake in 'Confrontation'

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

UFC finalist Philippe "The Filipino Assasin" Nover, center, poses with Gorilla Warfare MMA "Confrontation" fighters Jon Tuck of Guam and Saipan's Myron San Nicolas during an autograph signing at the Borderline store in Joeten Shopping Centre in Susupe yesterday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gorilla Warfare MMA will make a first this Saturday when it hosts "Confrontation" where a title belt is at stake.

"It has not been done before and we are excited to be the first," said Gorilla Warfare MMA's Jeff Boyer, who was referring to having a title belt at stake in one of the 13 bouts that will take place at World Resort tomorrow.

On top on these anticipated fights is the duel between the Philippines' Eduard "The Landslide" Folayang and Guam's Jon "Super Saiyan" Tuck for the lightweight title belt.

Both fighters are undefeated with Folayang holding a 6-0 record against Tuck's 4-0.

"Having a title belt challenge is evidence of our commitment to always raise the bar in mixed martial arts competitions. We seek to deliver the best show and the best spectator experience to our fans," Boyer added.

Besides the Folayang-Tuck fight, other featured bouts are Nate "The Terrible" Flores vs. Maitai "The Charger" Charley; Charles "The

See TITLE on Page 42

Noni Saipan leads IT&E in OT

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The first overtime game in the 2009 PILCOWA Basketball League between Noni Saipan and IT&E remain unfinished as it rained on Wednesday night at the JP Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

Noni Saipan was leading, 98-95, and IT&E's Edzel Mendoza was fouled and getting ready for a pair of charities when referees halted the match with 1:53 left in the extension period.

Regulation ended at 89-all, after neither team failed to make a basket in their last possession. IT&E had the best chance to win the game in the fourth quarter when they had the leather in the last eight seconds of that canto. However, Bonbon Cadagat, after eluding two Noni defenders, missed badly on his turn-around shot inside the 3-point area. Ivan De Vero grabbed the rebound, dribbled twice, and was still in IT&E's court when he threw a prayer and missed. Had he made the shot, it still would not be counted, as time had already expired.

IT&E forced overtime and almost stole the win when it went steady from the 15-foot line in the last one and a half minutes of the fourth period, hitting 4-for-4 from the stripe.

Mendoza's two free throws moved IT&E within one, 85-86, with 1:30

See NONI on Page 42

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Noni Saipan's Bart Demapan, right, goes for layup against IT&E's Quincy Johnson during their rain-suspended game in the PILCOWA caging on Wednesday night at the JP Centre Basketball Court.

12 matches set for Tan Holdings netfest kick-off

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rafael Jones will play in the first round of the men's. 40 singles division of the Inaugural Tan Holdings Tennis Classic today at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hostilities in the Inaugural Tan Holdings Tennis Classic will begin today with 12 singles matches set at the various courts on Saipan.

At the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts in San Antonio, four games in the men's 3.0 singles will be played. Over at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, four more matches in the men's 3.0 are scheduled, while the American Memorial Park tennis courts will host one game in the men's 4.0 singles and three in the men's 40-and-above age group.

More than 50 players are entered in Week 1 of the two-weekend event and more will come in Week 2, making the Inaugural Tan Holdings Tennis Classic one of the biggest tournaments on Saipan in terms of number of participants. Entries in the netfest is expected to reach a record mark with the addition of around 40 players from Guam.

The men's 3.0 singles has a complete 16-player draw, while the men's

See MATCHES on Page 42

12 keglers off to Asian Intercity in Guam

Tan | Ross Zapanta | Angeles | Gutierrez | Camacho | Elsa Zapanta | Williams

Barja | Manacop | G. Omechalang | Ray Zapanta | Raphael Zapanta | P. Omechalang | Castro

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Saipan Bowling Association will be sending a 12-player delegation to represent the CNMI in the 23rd Asian Intercity Bowling Championships set from Nov. 21 to 27 at the Central Lanes in Tamuning, Guam.

The CNMI delegation will comprise two teams—Team Saipan and Team Capital Hill—and spearheaded by SBA president Jerry Tan and team manager Ross Zapanta.

Team Saipan will have both a men's team and a women's team. Making up the men's team are veteran keglers Alex Castro, Kitz Barja, Percy Omechalang, and Simon Manacop.

The women's team of Team Saipan will have Emi Williams, Diane Camacho, Gloria Omechalang, and Elsa "Gigi" Zapanta.

The CNMI's top junior bowler Raphael Zapanta, meanwhile, will join former youth bowlers Raymond Zapanta, Raymond Angeles, and Jared Gutierrez in Team Capital Hill.

The bowlers will initially be partici-

See KEGLERS on Page 42